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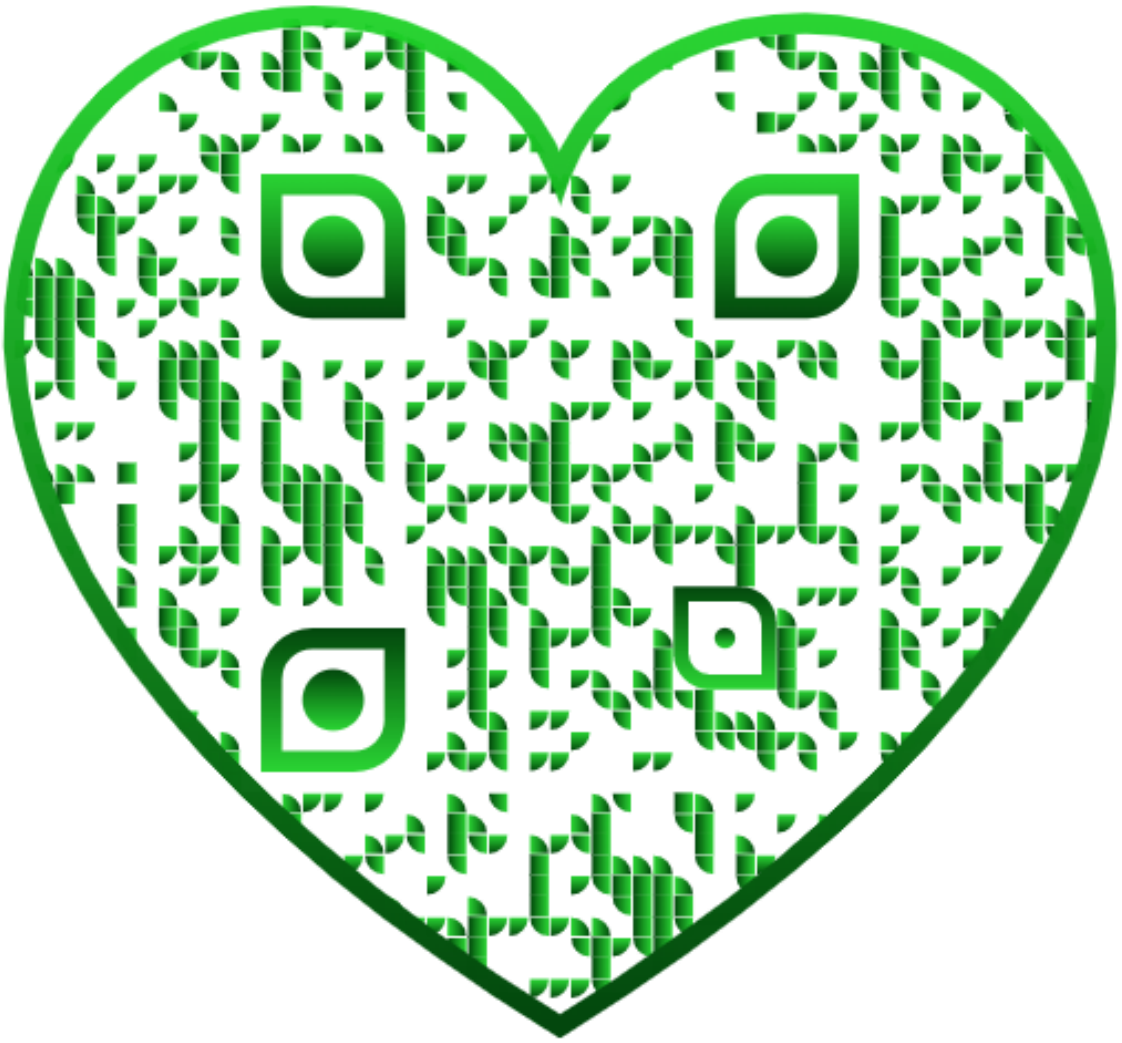

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MERRY KERRISTMAS TO OUR READERS

THE TREE'S UP, we've all got stupid hats on, and there's a festive special on the telly. It's Kerrismas once again! The last 12 months have been a roller coaster – there's been loads of awesome shows, albums and japes, there's been triumphs and tragedies, and a load of stuff that's made us go 'WTF!?' (Okilly Dokilly, we're looking in your direction). But even through all the trials and tribulations 2016 has thrown up, there's been tons of killer music to help us through it all. And all year, what's been really brilliant has been sharing it with you guys, and knowing we've got the best readers and friends in the world. So this one's especially for you, enjoy the Kerrismas mega-issue, and we'll see you all in 2017 for even more rock mayhem!

THE KERRANG! TEAM, DECEMBER 2016

COVER PHOTOS: ALEX LAKE, ANDREW LIPOVSKY, PAUL HARRIES, ANDY FORD

NEWS

THE BIG STORY

THE MOST IMPORTANT THING EVER

IT'S A KERRISTMAS MIRACLE!

IT'S FINALLY HAPPENING. AFTER YEARS OF WAITING, **AMY LEE** IS OFFICIALLY STARTING TO WRITE SONGS FOR THE NEW **EVANESCENCE** ALBUM…

IT'S BEEN a long, long, looooooong time. Half a decade on from Evanescence's last album – 2011's self-titled offering – the world is still patiently waiting for the return of Amy Lee's multi-million-selling goth-rock phenomenon. In that time, Amy's been busy: she's had her first child, soundtracked the 2014 film War Story, welcomed a new member of the band to the fold – guitar hero Jen Majura – and, most recently, recorded a children's lullaby album, 2016's Dream Too Much. But as for her plans for Evanescence? Tumbleweed.

And that's not because we've not been asking. We asked her in 2014. "I have a lot of ideas, but I don't have a plan," she replied. "Evanescence is a big part of who I am and I feel I can come back to it whenever I want to." Likewise, last year, in August, as Evanescence looked towards performing their first shows in three years, Amy simply said the main goal was to take it slow and "just try playing together!" The wait, however, may finally be drawing to a close.

Evanescence have just finished a mini U.S. tour last month, which as well as seeing them play some rare songs, included the debut of a previously-unheard track Take Cover. They're also about to release the stunning Evanescence: The Ultimate Collection, a 6-LP career-spanning vinyl box set, which includes all their studio albums, their super-rare, previously-unreleased demo album Origin, as well as B-sides and rarities. And, even more excitingly, that's not all.

We caught up with Amy Lee to find out why the next chapter of Evanescence is officially underway…

HI, AMY! HOW ARE YOU DOING?

"I'm doing well! We've been touring, which is a beautiful thing. As usual, it was too short! We had a full month out together and really got a chance to get in the groove and get comfortable in our set and have complete fun with it. We're enjoying it very much. The band's in a very healthy and excited place."

> ***"I'M VERY EXCITED ABOUT THE FUTURE OF EVANESCENCE!"***
>
> **AMY LEE**

YOU'VE GIVEN LOTS OF ANSWERS ABOUT THE FUTURE OF EVANESCENCE OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS. IS IT NOW, FINALLY, EVANESCENCE O'CLOCK?

"It truly is. We're feeling that solid, inspired, new chapter feeling right now. The gears are turning, we have ideas, we have some plans – but I hate to ever say, 'This is what we're going to do and when it's going to happen!' because I need us to be free when the creative process is going on. We're feeling really good, I honestly feel like anything is possible with this band and this line-up right now. We're just being brave, and what's always important about creating the next thing is that you take time to try things out, throw some spaghetti at the wall, see how crazy you can go, and then find the place where you really discover the heart of the inspiration for the next album. We're in a creative place, but I'm not going to tell you when something's coming out. We have two different release plans, actually – it's not going to be as simple as 'we're making an album'. We're on two ideas at once at the moment (*laughs*)! That's all I can say."

NOOOOOOO. OKAY, HOW ABOUT THE NEW SONG YOU'VE BEEN PLAYING ON TOUR – TAKE COVER – WHICH IS ACTUALLY AN OLD UNRELEASED SONG. HOW OLD IS IT, AND WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO PLAY IT?

"Well, when we were getting ready for this tour we were asking, 'What should we do with the set list?' I forget who said it first, but someone said, 'You know what the fans want the most is a new song!' So I was like, 'What about Take Cover?' It was one of those songs that totally could have made it to the last album, but there were too many good songs and it just didn't make it – it was right at the top of the pile. So we tried it, and it was one of the best moments of every night because it has *major* attitude. And I think that's cool, it's a nice way to experiment song-wise, see how the fans react, see how *we* feel."

WORDS: GEORGE GARNER PHOTOS: GETTY

It's not conclusive, but pretty sure the note Amy's hitting sounds like this: 'Aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaah'

(L – R): Jen Majura (guitar), Tim McCord (bass), Amy Lee (vocals, piano), Troy McLawhorn (guitar), Will Hunt (drums)

A loud guitar is still no match for Amy's phat beatboxing skills

SINCE THE SONG HAS NEVER OFFICIALLY BEEN RELEASED, ARE YOU STILL WORKING OUT WHAT IT IS?

"There's a real beauty to that because there's a way that songs really do develop when you play them live multiple times. You start to try something different every night – be it the guitar part, the way you sing – and it lets the song grow, it's not done. It's not over. Which is really beautiful, because we haven't recorded it yet and we still have time to make these choices and really live in the song. It's something I've always been against – I never ever wanted to play a song that we hadn't already released a studio-quality version of before we play it live, one where I'll see a crappy version of it on YouTube. But I just feel like I'm in a new space, we're in a new space as a band, where I feel so confident about my group and where we are. I feel like, as a team, we're playing really well, and I'm not afraid. I feel we could whip any song out and try and do it! I'm so relieved to be in such an amazing group of musicians where we can honestly all have a great time doing our best and working together and making something that rocks."

FROM THE OUTSIDE LOOKING IN, IT DEFINITELY SEEMS LIKE JEN FITS INTO THE BAND PERFECTLY…

"We love Jen. She is our sister. And she definitely brings a new, positive vibe to the band – a new confidence. As much as people love to talk about how Evanescence change members all the time, Will and Troy have been in the band since 2007. And Tim has been in the band since 2006. That's a *loooong* time that us four have been solid. And this one new change was just like the last part of the puzzle falling into place. I feel like we're the best band we've ever been, so I'm very excited about the future of Evanescence. I don't mean to sound like I'm tooting my own horn – this is gratefulness to my *awesome* band."

"WE'RE WORKING ON TWO IDEAS AT THE MOMENT..."

AMY LEE

SO, IN TERMS OF REAL NEW MATERIAL – HAVE YOU STARTED WRITING MATERIAL TOGETHER FOR THE NEXT ALBUM?

"We are in an inspired place to write. Over the course of our history, the way Evanescence creates music is that some songs start with the whole band in a room jamming, and some happen just with me alone in my studio working out thoughts at the keyboard. Those alone moments have already been happening, but we haven't set aside the full-band time to create full songs yet. The first toe in the water of that is Take Cover."

YOU'VE ALSO GOT THE NEW EVANESCENCE BOX SET COMING OUT THIS MONTH. WHAT DID YOU LEARN LOOKING BACK ON YOUR CAREER AS A WHOLE?

"You know, it really made me very happy. It wasn't something I was forced to do. Since forever there have been plenty of suggestions and pressure to re-release things and do a remaster of this or a 10-year anniversary of that, but I feel if you don't take those moments seriously and do something the right way to make it special and make it new, then you're just taking advantage of your core fanbase and asking them to purchase something twice. We haven't done very much of that, that's why. This was a special idea where I feel like, when I look at it as a fan, I want that – you definitely want to have one. It's not just, 'Here's all the albums together – woohoo!' There's the album before Fallen, Origin, which I don't really want to call an album – it's like our demo music that got us signed. I've tried to bury it since Fallen because it's the very first beginnings of us as teenagers trying to figure out who we were, how to write songs and what our band was supposed to sound like."

SO DID YOU ACTUALLY GRIN AND BEAR IT AND LISTEN BACK TO ORIGIN?

"Of course! Well, naturally, the first thing that always comes to mind is: 'URGH! I would do that different now!' But I'm finally far enough away from it where I can really appreciate it and go, 'Nothing about this is going to change, just appreciate reading your diary from the 8th grade!' Because that's what it is! It's like, 'Oh God, that's so embarrassing!' but at the same time it's so sweet, I can hear the real me in there where I was just trying to work it out. You hear those beautiful moments where we were just starting to write Whisper, Imaginary and My Immortal. All those things were happening then, so it's really cool in a historical way now we've put out so much great quality music since then. It's not like someone's going to hear Origin and think that's who we are. We're past that. I can finally appreciate it!"

FROM ORIGIN TO FALLEN WAS A BIG LEAP...

"Yeah, and there are parts of Fallen that I can listen to and think about how I'd do it differently now, too. But it's a beautiful thing. It's cool, like smelling a smell you smelled as a kid – it instantly takes you back to the moment. Hearing songs that I hadn't listened to in many years took me right back to the place where I was thinking about how, one day, we were going to make it because we were on to something really cool, and all I wanted in the whole world was to believe in this dream, and fight tooth and nail for it where people would hear it. And then it happened! So to be able to hear that distant echo cry and then leap to the next part and hear Fallen, and everything that meant to us, then The Open Door where we started to explore and it got to be more of my courage and heart and choir influence and weirdness, to the self-titled record that really showed us as a band live, and how we started to learn to be a live band and bring in that new attitude. It just makes me very happy to be able to listen to the whole progression – I'm very proud of our evolution as a band."

AND AN APPROPRIATE THING TO DO BEFORE RECORDING A NEW ALBUM...

"It is. It was the perfect thing to do before our tour, and inspired me to bring older songs into the set, and playing a new song, and bringing the whole picture that was freshly in my head of what Evanescence is to the stage. And now we can take that to the next place."

FINALLY, WILL WE BE SEEING YOU IN THE UK ANY TIME SOON?

"I hope so!"

GO ON...

"Oh, okay. Alright. Pay me!"

The Ultimate Collection is out *December 16* via *UMC*

THE FEED
THIS WEEK IN ROCK

MERRY CHRISSY-MAS!

BLOODY HELL, THIS YEAR HAS BEEN HARD. BUT TIME TO TURN THAT FROWN UPSIDE-DOWN! HERE'S THE QUEEN OF POP-PUNK POSITIVITY, **AGAINST THE CURRENT**'S **CHRISSY COSTANZA**!

Just out of shot: a fuckload of puppies

Sure, music's been great. But elsewhere? Well, there's no way of sugarcoating it; this has been a shit year. From Brexit to Trump, to the loss of pretty much every actor and musician we've ever loved, 2016 has been one cruel, cruel mistress. But you're holding the Kerrang! Kerristmas extravaganza. Things *could* be worse. And so we got pop-punk's happiest frontwoman Chrissy Costanza from Against The Current on the phone to cheer us up. Here, she tells us six things from "the year the Earth lost its *God damn* mind" (her words) that might actually make you smile. Forgotten how to do that? Yeah us too, but let's give it a go…

1. THE SHINY NEW ATC RECORD

"Our record came out this year – that was our first record ever, so it was definitely a big milestone for us. We've had a really positive reaction to it and so many fans have come up to us and been like, 'This year sucked…' Apparently for a lot of people, this year was not that good (*laughs*) – and they would just come up and be like, 'Your album helped me through it and kept my spirits up.'"

2. GREAT SHOWS DONE AND TO COME

"We played our biggest show ever in London at Shepherd's Bush Empire. It was awesome to see that many people in the room, especially 'cause a few days ago was December 3, and that marks exactly two years since our first London headline show at the Borderline, where we were playing to like 300 fans, so to be playing to 2,000 kids in London is pretty insane. We're doing a special acoustic show in March in London, so we're really excited about that."

3. TURNING 21

"I don't know if this benefits anyone but me, but I turned 21 this year. I'm not a big partier, I don't go out a lot, but it's just nice to be like, 'Hey, I'm a real adult, you can't tell me what to do anymore (*laughs*).' I didn't do anything that you should do on your 21st birthday – I was in bed by 10. But I went to the city [New York] and my boyfriend had the whole day planned and took me to different places – we went to a bar that had Harry Potter-themed shots. And I think we caught Pokémon for a bit, too."

4. SPORTS TEAM TRIUMPHS

"I went to see my American football team, the New York Giants, and got to sit front row, and watch us beat one of our division rivals, the Philadelphia Eagles, which was pretty sick. I had blue glitter face paint on my face and I was losing my mind! We were there at 10 in the morning, and had beer, but I was like, 'There is no chance I'm drinking a beer at 10 in the morning.' (*Laughs*) So I drank mimosas and it was delightful!"

5. AMAZING TV SHOWS

"Westworld was absolutely *awesome*. It's by the people who do Game Of Thrones, and the concept is based off a movie of the same name from the '70s [*written by Jurassic Park creator Michael Crichton – Film Ed*]. The idea of it is so cool. I was so addicted! That, and I finally watched The Office [U.S.] for the first time this year. I was obsessed with Pam and Jim – I was like, 'I need to go work in a cubicle now!'"

6. DOGS, DOGS, DOGS

"I have met so many dogs on tour – every time I see a dog I'm so happy. The best dog I met was on Warped Tour, and he was a service dog, and *so* smart. The owner was epileptic and the dog was trained to scent when the seizure is about to happen, and if she does have a seizure he can roll her on her back and pull her tongue out of her mouth. Dogs are just so perfect and so pure, there's nothing wrong with them, they're just such good boys!"

"WESTWORLD WAS ABSOLUTELY AWESOME!"
CHRISSY COSTANZA

*Against The Current tour the UK in March – see the **Gig Guide***

WORDS: JENNYFER J. WALKER **PHOTO:** ANDREW LIPOVSKY

HELLO COUNTERFEIT WHERE THE HELL HAVE YOU BEEN?

18 MONTHS AGO BRITISH ROCKERS **COUNTERFEIT** HIT EVERYONE AROUND THE CHOPS WITH THEIR SHIT-KICKING PUNK-ROCK. THEN NOTHING. TURNS OUT THEY WERE UP TO STUFF. HERE'S **JAMIE CAMPBELL BOWER** TO TELL US WHAT!

JAMIE! WE HAVEN'T SEEN YOU SINCE 2000TREES – WHERE THE HELL HAVE YOU BEEN?

"We came out of 2000trees and we went straight into the studio with Tom Mitchener and recorded [new single] Addiction. Two weeks after that, we basically began the album, so we've been writing and there's a couple of new tracks on the record that nobody has heard before. Aside from that I've been shooting this TV series, so I've been backwards and forward filming that, then going to the studio, then back to filming again."

YOUR NEW SINGLE, ADDICTION, WAS A NICE EARLY KERRISTMAS PRESENT…

"Yeah, it was! We've been sitting on Addiction for a while. It's been interesting for me in terms of having work that is done and then sitting on it for so long. You start to second-guess it – you start to question it. But getting it out there was a huge relief. This seems like the beginning of the album run for us, I suppose."

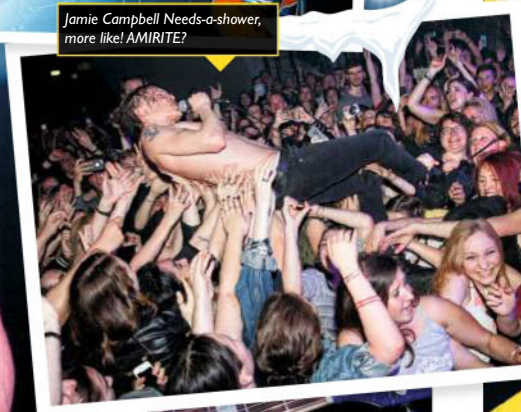
> **"THIS RECORD UNLEASHES A DEMON!"**
> **JAMIE CAMPBELL BOWER**

SO, DOES THIS SINGLE GIVE US AN INDICATION OF THE DEBUT ALBUM?

"I think so. I mean, the record's wild and it's a bit mad in places. It was written over an eight-month period and the songs sort of came at me at once, but there's definitely variation on the record. It's very frantic in places, and in a way sounds quite naive, and I think that it is what we wanted it to sound like. We got to a point where we got into the studio with these songs and we recorded them and they sounded amazing, we were really stoked [and said] 'Can we grow a little bit more?' Then we go, 'Wait a second – this is our first record, this needs to sound like the first record!' As much as you want to develop as an artist, you've got to have that doubt and it's got to sound manic. It sounds like five guys who have gone into a room and said, 'Right, let's make some fucking rock songs!'"

SOUNDS A BIT LIKE YOU UNLEASHED YOUR INNER-MONSTER…

"Yeah, exactly! I don't like to go too deep in terms of lyrical content, as it is plainly obvious for anyone who wants to read into it. I've said this before, but there's some form of exorcism that happens when you do that and when you give so much of how you feel personally and your own experience and you put that on a record. It does unleash some kind of… *demon*."



Jamie Campbell Needs-a-shower, more like! AMIRITE?

I LOVE KERRISTMAS MOVIES!

WE ALL KNOW JAMIE IS AN ACTOR. BUT WHAT ARE HIS FAVOURITE XMAS MOVIES?

ELF

"A classic. I love that movie. There's also this scene where Zooey Deschanel is singing and I remember thinking it was a really interesting voice, and I discovered she was in a band. So [Elf] not only touched me in a very special place I shan't describe, it also turned me onto some music."

THE NIGHTMARE BEFORE CHRISTMAS

"I kinda see that movie as the beginning of the festive season. If I could be an animated character I would definitely be Jack Skellington. That's the plan, anyway. I've gotta be taller and less alive for that!"

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE

"This is an absolute classic! The end always makes me tear up – now that doesn't sound rock'n'roll, does it? But I've got to be honest here: I cry at that film. It's fine to cry."

*Counterfeit tour the UK in April – see the **Gig Guide***

WORDS: JAMES HINGLE **PHOTO:** PAUL HARRIES

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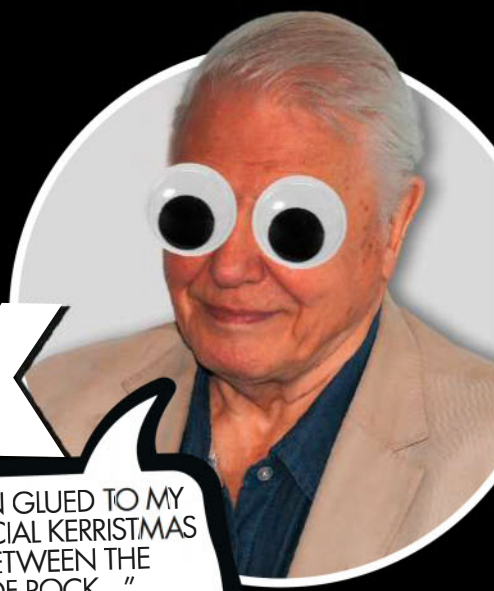
planet ROCK



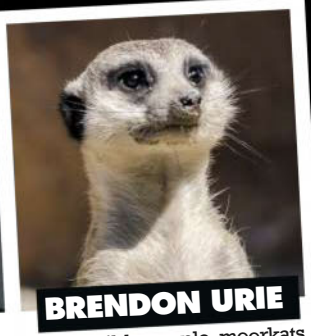
"HELLO, I'M SIR DAVID SHATTINGBOROUGH. YOU'VE ALL BEEN GLUED TO MY PLANET EARTH PROGRAMME THIS YEAR, BUT NOW, AS A SPECIAL KERRISTMAS TREAT, I'M GOING TO TAKE A LOOK AT THE SIMILARITIES BETWEEN THE ANIMAL KINGDOM, AND THE STRANGE, WILD BEASTS OF ROCK..."

MALAYSIAN BEAR

GENE SIMMONS

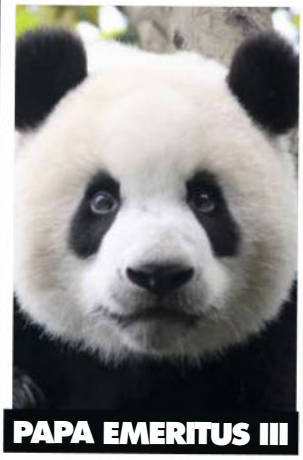
"Look at this fella and his very long tongue. Bet that's useful for getting to the bottom of the honeypot. No, not like that. This is a BBC show. A family show. I learned my lesson after we screened those shagging zebras..."

MEERKAT



BRENDON URIE

"When they're not selling insurance to gullible people, meerkats like nothing better than to slip on a smoking jacket, kick off their brogues, and unwind with an Old Fashioned. Simples."



PAPA EMERITUS III

PANDA

"A lot of people think that pandas are cute, cuddly creatures. What they don't know about is the dark, Satanic power that lies within them. Look into those sad eyes, and you'll see entire civilizations being skewered and eviscerated on the (bamboo) fields of war."

PHOTOS: GETTY

AXL ROSE

CARDINAL

"Famously territorial, this hot-headed songbird will often become aggressive and shriek angrily at threats. Including, on some occasions, even its own reflection."

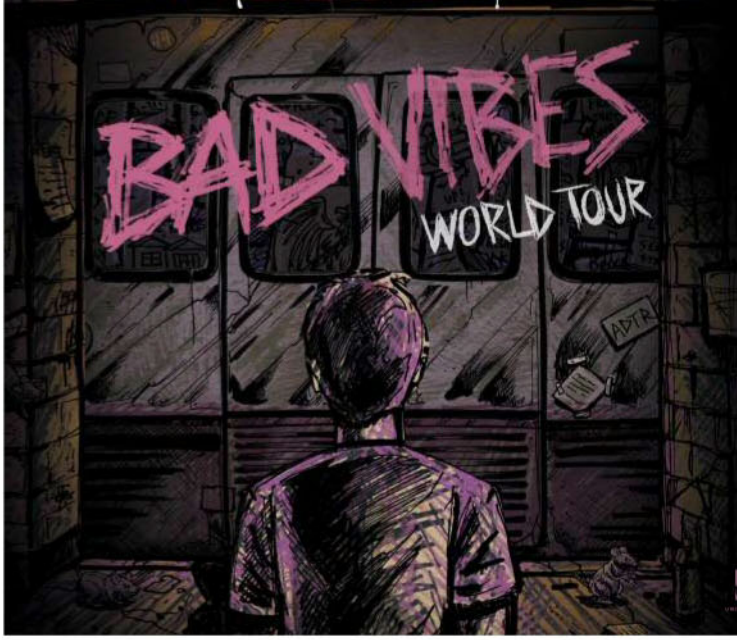
SLOTH

GERARD WAY

"If this page doesn't kickstart an internet meme sensation about how Revenge-era Gerard looks a tiny bit like a sloth then, frankly, what's the absolute fucking point in anything?"

*Seen a rockstar who looks like an animal? TELL US! Send an email to **Feedback@kerrang.com**!*

A DAY TO REMEMBER



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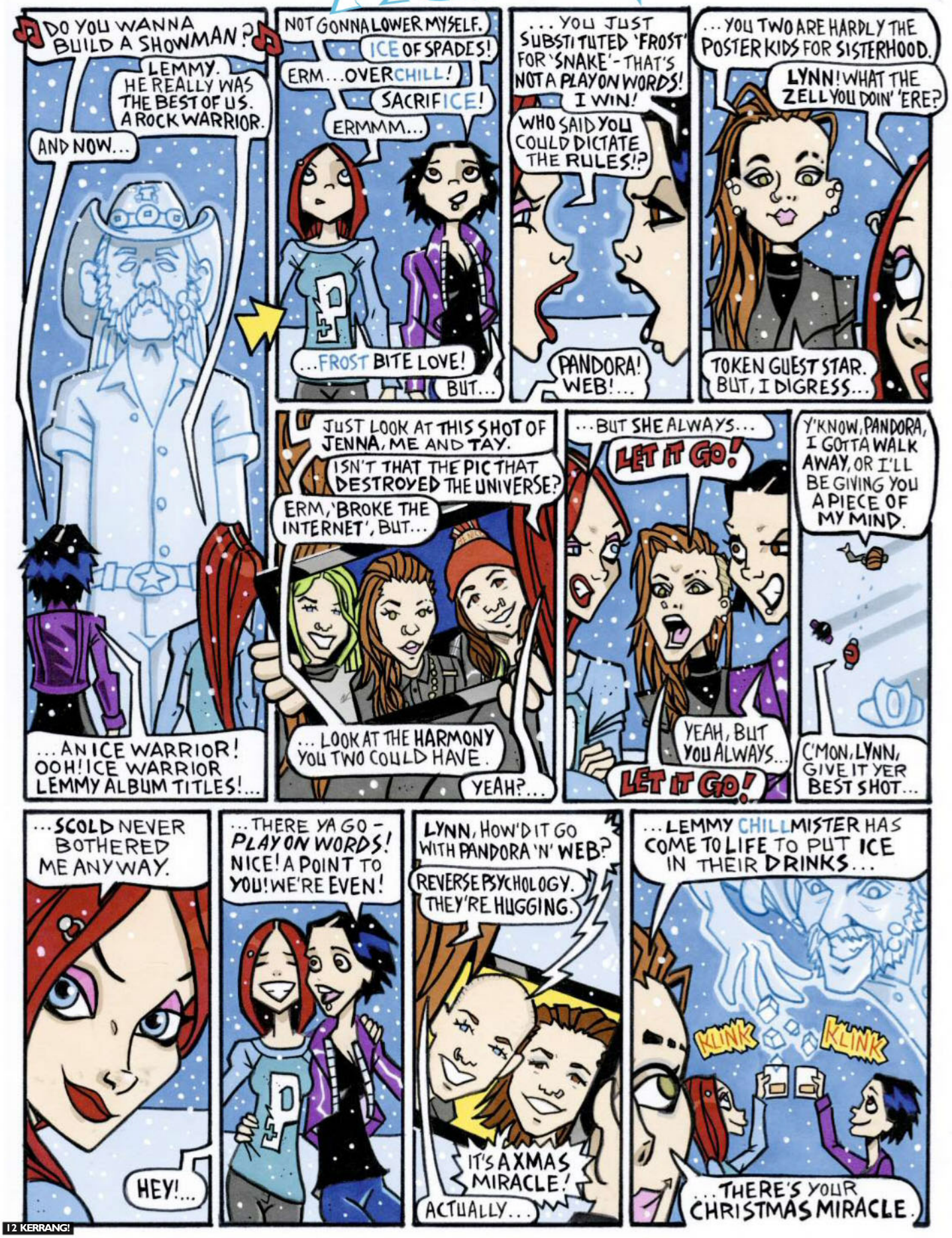
BY RAY ZELL



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MARCH 2017
09 - NORWICH UEA
10 - BIRMINGHAM O2 ACADEMY
11 - MANCHESTER ACADEMY
13 - LEEDS O2 ACADEMY
14 - NEWCASTLE O2 ACADEMY
15 - GLASGOW O2 ABC
17 - LONDON O2 ACADEMY BRIXTON
18 - CARDIFF THE GREAT HALL

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GIGSANDTOURS.COM

LIVE NATION, DF CONCERTS, SLAM DUNK & VMS LIVE IN ASSOCIATION WITH ITB & RED LIGHT MANAGEMENT

LOWERTHANATLANTIS.COM SAFE IN SOUND OUT 03 FEBRUARY 2017

TRIVIUM

SILENCE IN THE SNOW U.K. & IRELAND TOUR 2017

WITH SPECIAL GUESTS

SIKTH SHVPES

11.2 - DUBLIN ACADEMY
12.2 - BELFAST LIMELIGHT
14.2 - BIRMINGHAM O2 INSTITUTE
15.2 - MANCHESTER ACADEMY
16.2 - GLASGOW BARROWLANDS
17.2 - LONDON ROUNDHOUSE
18.2 - NOTTINGHAM ROCK CITY

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TRIVIUM.ORG

A LIVE NATION, DF CONCERTS, MCD & FRIENDS PRESENTATION IN ASSOCIATION WITH UNITED TALENT AGENCY

CALLING ALL MUSIC FANS

DOWNLOAD THE LIVE NATION APP Available on the App Store ANDROID APP ON Google play

MISERY QUIZNESS!

IT'S A CROSSWORD. ABOUT **PARAMORE**. DON'T SAY WE NEVER GIVE YOU OWT…

LOOK, YOU don't have to listen to your boring uncle banging on about boring shit this Kerristmas. Instead, you can put on your headphones, cue up Riot! and get stuck into this Paramore crossword. Rumour has it that 2017 will bring us the fifth Paramore album, too. We haven't been this excited ever, we don't think. But before we face the future, let's celebrate the history of that very special band, by starting with 2 Across… And don't forget to come back in two weeks for the answers (K! 1651)!

PARAMORE XMAS SPECIAL

ACROSS

2 Lyric from Emergency: '*I've seen you --- / Way too many times…*' (3)
5 Surname of Hayley's punk-rock husband (7)
6 First and last words in the title of a Paramore song featuring Joy Williams (4, 5)
7 On November 7, 2016, Hayley tweeted this mewithoutYou lyric: '*You've loved a ---- of me that died*' (4)
9 Lyric from U2's Sunday Bloody Sunday, covered by Paramore: '*The trench is dug within our hearts / And mothers, children, brothers, sisters ---- apart*' (4)
11 The storming first track on 2013's Paramore album (4, 2, 2, 3)
14 Paramore's record label (6, 2, 5)
15 Track from 2013's Paramore, called Interlude: I'm Not ----- Anymore (5)
16 2007 track, For - Pessimist, -- Pretty Optimistic (1, 2)
17 Hayley has guested live on the track Stay With Me by --- Me -- Six (3, 2)
18 Hayley's a big fan of Memphis singer-songwriter Julien ----- (5)
20 Lyric from Misery Business: '*I waited ----- long months / She finally set him free*' (5)

DOWN

1 The tremendous fourth track on 2009's Brand New Eyes (5, 2, 6, 5)
3 Hayley once admitted via Twitter: 'I always ------- along to the Dexter intro. Every single time' (7)
4 In May 2015, Hayley blogged: 'I'm a 26 years old person. And yes, a proud feminist. Just maybe not a ------- one?' (7)
8 Lyric from Fences: '*You're always on ------- / For everyone to watch and learn from*' (7)
10 2013 track, (One -- Those) ----- Girls (2, 5)
12 Two lines from Ignorance: '*-- I'm a bad person / You don't like me*' and '*I guess I'll go / I best be -- my way out*' (2, 2)
13 Super-tough clue! The name of the contestant who sang crushcrushcrush on the Hungarian edition of The Voice was Karai ---- (4)
18 One of the colours in Hayley's goodDYEyoung hair dye range: ---- Ruin (4)
19 Add an exclamation mark and you have a Paramore album (4)

BLINK-182

PLUS SPECIAL GUESTS

JULY 2017

SOLD OUT **CARDIFF** MOTORPOINT ARENA
TUE 04 **NOTTINGHAM** MOTORPOINT ARENA
WED 05 **LEEDS** FIRST DIRECT ARENA
FRI 07 **BIRMINGHAM** BARCLAYCARD ARENA
SUN 09 **NEWCASTLE** METRO RADIO ARENA
TUE 11 **GLASGOW** THE SSE HYDRO

EXTRA DATE ADDED DUE TO PHENOMENAL DEMAND
WED 12 **ABERDEEN** GE OIL & GAS ARENA

FRI 14 **MANCHESTER** ARENA
SAT 15 **LIVERPOOL** ECHO ARENA
SOLD OUT **BOURNEMOUTH** INT CENTRE
WED 19 **LONDON** THE O2

EXTRA DATE ADDED DUE TO PHENOMENAL DEMAND
THU 20 **LONDON** THE O2

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BLINK182.COM BLINK182 UK NUMBER 1 ALBUM **'CALIFORNIA'** OUT NOW!

AN SJM CONCERTS AND DF CONCERTS PRESENTATION BY ARRANGEMENT WITH ITB, DECKSTAR AND CARDIFF GIANT

TAKING BACK SUNDAY

TIDAL WAVE

PLUS SPECIAL GUESTS

FRANK IERO AND THE PATIENCE
(ALL DATES)

MILESTONES (MANCHESTER ONLY)
Muncie Girls (NOTTINGHAM & NORWICH ONLY)
blackfoxxes (LONDON & GLASGOW ONLY)

FEBRUARY 2017

SAT 11 BELFAST LIMELIGHT
SUN 12 DUBLIN VICAR STREET
TUE 14 GLASGOW O_2 ABC
WED 15 MANCHESTER O_2 RITZ
THU 16 LONDON O_2 FORUM KENTISH TOWN
FRI 17 NOTTINGHAM ROCK CITY
SAT 18 NORWICH UEA

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NEW ALBUM TIDAL WAVE OUT NOW ON HOPELESS RECORDS

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takingbacksunday.com

AN SJM CONCERTS & FRIENDS PRESENTATION IN ARRANGEMENT WITH UNITED TALENT AGENCY

ALL TIME LOW

PLUS
SWMRS
WATERPARKS

MARCH
Fri 10 Londo[SOLD OUT]m Apollo
Sat 11 Cardi[SOLD OUT]rsity Great Hall
Mon 13 Southampton O2 Guildhall
Tue 14 Cambridge Corn Exchange
Wed 15 Leeds O2 Academy
Thu 16 Birmingham O2 Academy
Sat 18 Liverpool Guild of Students
Wed 22 Bristol O2 Academy
Thu 23 Manchester O2 Apollo
Fri 24 Sheffield O2 Academy
Sat 25 Newcastle O2 Academy
Mon 27 Edinburgh Corn Exchange
Tue 28 Glasgow O2 Academy
Thu 30 N[SOLD OUT] Nick Rayns LCR, UEA
Fri 31 London O2 Academy Brixton

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AN SJM CONCERTS PRESENTATION BY ARRANGEMENT WITH X-RAY

THE OFFICIAL KERRANG! ROCK CHART

THE K! KERRISTMAS ROCK CHART IS HERE! AND THERE'S NEW ENTRIES FROM **BIFFY CLYRO**, **KORN**, **WATERPARKS** AND **FORT HOPE**! YOU'D BETTER DECK THE HALLS WITH ROCK…

	WEEKS ON CHART	HIGHEST POSITION	ARTIST	TITLE	
1	5	1	BRING ME THE HORIZON	Oh No	SONY
2	8	2	CREEPER	Suzanne	ROADRUNNER
3	12	1	YOU ME AT SIX	Night People	BMG
4	12	2	A DAY TO REMEMBER	Naivety	ADTR RECORDS
5	3	5	MALLORY KNOX	Giving It Up	SONY
6	8	5	ENTER SHIKARI	Hoodwinker	AMBUSH REALITY
7	14	1	TWIN ATLANTIC	The Chaser	RED BULL
8	3	8	GREEN DAY	Still Breathing	REPRISE
9	12	3	LOWER THAN ATLANTIS	Work For It	EASY LIFE
10	6	6	METALLICA	Moth Into Flame	BLACKENED RECORDINGS
11	8	3	AIRBOURNE	Rivalry	SPINEFARM
12	6	12	PROPHETS OF RAGE	Prophets Of Rage	CAROLINE
13	1	13	KORN	Take Me	ROADRUNNER
14	1	14	BIFFY CLYRO	Re-arrange	14TH FLOOR RECORDS
15	5	13	ATTILA	Bulletproof	SHARPTONE
16	5	6	DEAF HAVANA	Trigger	SO RECORDINGS
17	10	10	KINGS OF LEON	Waste A Moment	RCA
18	1	18	FORT HOPE	Say No	VIRGIN EMI
19	1	19	WATERPARKS	Stupid For You	EASY LIFE
20	15	1	GREEN DAY	Bang Bang	REPRISE

JONATHAN DAVIS, KORN

IS THE LYRICAL CONTENT OF THE SONG YOU EXPRESSING YOUR DEMONS?

"I don't know what the songs mean until I'm done singing. I just let the emotions pour out, I sit there and write. I don't think there's a theme to it other than watching me get my demons out – call it therapy or whatever. But it's something really positive for people that listen to it and everyone that comes to the shows – they forget about everything and have a good time. That's what it's all for! You give up a lot of shit to be that brutally honest. I guess I was built with that switch where I don't care – that's just how I get the fucking shit out. I have no clue, but if it helps people, that's good."

HOW WOULD YOU COMPARE NEW ALBUM THE SERENITY OF SUFFERING TO YOUR DEBUT?

"I think our new album is sonically and musically heavy. It's not like we've tried to return to our roots or anything of that shit at all. It's still heavy, it's still melodic, it's still Korn. I think it really did help us going out to Nashville to record."

WORDS: AMIT SHARMA

JON GASKIN, FORT HOPE

WHAT'S SAY NO ABOUT?

"It's about being addicted and trying to convince yourself to stop, despite the forces against you."

HOW WAS THE SONG BORN, THEN?

"The song came about when everything for us was up in the air – we were about to split up and face a world we didn't want to be in."

ARE THERE ANY SECRETS ABOUT THE TRACK THAT WE MIGHT NOT KNOW?

"Yeah! There is a lot of sarcasm in the lyrics."

SEE/HEAR THE OFFICIAL KERRANG! ROCK CHART!

KERRANG! TV

KERRANG! RADIO

The Official Kerrang! Rock Chart is made up of airplay across Kerrang! Radio, Kerrang! TV and specialist rock stations. The show airs on K! Radio every Saturday at 10am with Loz Guest, and also on K! TV Thursdays at 4pm. Tune in and listen up!

UNDERØATH

REBIRTH TOUR MAY 2017

MON	1	MANCHESTER O2 RITZ
WED	3	NOTTINGHAM ROCK CITY
THU	4	GLASGOW O2 ABC
FRI	5	NEWCASTLE O2 ACADEMY
SAT	6	BIRMINGHAM O2 INSTITUTE
MON	8	LEEDS BECKETT UNIVERSITY
TUE	9	LONDON O2 FORUM
WED	10	NORWICH NICK RAYNS LCR UEA
THU	11	BRISTOL O2 ACADEMY

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AND
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AN SJM CONCERTS PRESENTATION BY ARRANGEMENT WITH PRIMARY TALENT INTERNATIONAL

THE PRETTY RECKLESS

JANUARY 2017

THURSDAY 19TH NOTTINGHAM ROCK CITY
FRIDAY 20TH BIRMINGHAM O2 INSTITUTE
SATURDAY 21ST LONDON ~~SOLD OUT~~ FORUM KENTISH TOWN
MONDAY 23RD GLASGOW O2 ABC
TUESDAY 24TH ~~SOLD OUT~~ MANCHESTER O2 RITZ

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THEPRETTYRECKLESS.COM

AN S.J.M CONCERTS AND DF PRESENTATION BY ARRANGEMENT WITH WME

"WHO YOU SELLING FOR"
OUT NOW!

YOU ME AT SIX

NIGHT PEOPLE

2017 UK TOUR

EXTRA DATE ADDED
02 APRIL – MANCHESTER ACADEMY
03 APRIL – NEWCASTLE O2 ACADEMY
05 APRIL – PLYMOUTH PAVILIONS
06 APRIL – BLACKBURN KING GEORGE'S HALL
07 APRIL – DONCASTER THE DOME
EXTRA DATE ADDED
08 APRIL – NORWICH UEA
10 APRIL – BIRMINGHAM O2 ACADEMY
11 APRIL – BOURNEMOUTH SOLENT HALL
13 APRIL – GLASGOW SECC
14 APRIL – CARDIFF MOTORPOINT ARENA
15 APRIL – LONDON ALEXANDRA PALACE

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YOUMEATSIX.CO.UK | YOUMEATSIX

AN SJM CONCERTS, DF AND KILIMANJARO PRESENTATION BY ARRANGEMENT WITH CAA

SKUNK ANANSIE

SATURDAY 04 FEBRUARY
LONDON O2 ACADEMY BRIXTON

NEW SHOWS ADDED
THURSDAY 25 MAY
BRISTOL O2 ACADEMY
SATURDAY 27 MAY
MANCHESTER O2 RITZ
TICKETS ON SALE NOW

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AN SJM CONCERTS PRESENTATION BY ARRANGEMENT WITH 13 ARTISTS

ISSUE 1550 DEC 17, 2016

(L – R): Seb Boyse (drums), Tiggy Dee (vocals), Matt Gascoyne (guitar), Zach Shannon (bass)

FRESH BLOOD
ROCK'S BREAKING BANDS

EVA PLAYS DEAD

FOR FANS OF: MARMOZETS, HALESTORM, THE PRETTY RECKLESS

WORDS: JAMES HINGLE PHOTO: PAUL HARRIES

WHO ARE THIS LOT SKATING INTO OUR LIVES?

That's Eva Plays Dead! And while that ice might look sturdy, once this quartet fire out their no-bullshit brand of rock, everything – including the ice – will shatter before them. Hell, they're kicking up such a storm that their fans are even changing their names. "One guy has changed his name by default to Eva, which is proper mental," laughs frontwoman Tiggy Dee. But while 2015's Sounds Of The Written Word EP started to attract international attention and scoop them support slots with the likes of New Years Day, things took a sour twist this year in a way that would truly test their spirits…

HOW DID IT TURN SOUR?

Earlier in 2016, the band had over £3,000 worth of their gear stolen from their van, including guitars, pedals and bass heads. "It was rubbish for us for a while because we had to stop practicing, and we couldn't play shows because we didn't have the gear which was upsetting," remembers Tiggy. This occurrence is all too familiar with British bands at the moment, with the likes of ROAM and Young Guns also suffering similar fates in 2016. So much so, in fact, it put a halt to their musical endeavours. "It was a massive hindrance – we had to push all the new music back to focus on recovering everything," says guitarist Matt Gascoyne. At least there was a light at the end of the tunnel: "One of our fans created their own JustGiving page and started fundraising themselves. Dr. Martens even got on board and donated £2,000 towards it!" beams Tiggy. But for Matt, things became even more surreal. "We got a Twitter message from this company called KHDK, and I thought it was some DIY, dude-in-the-back-of-his-mum's-shed-building-pedals, offering me a free pedal." Little did Matt know this was, in fact, Kirk Hammett from Metallica's pedal company. "Kirk heard of the story and they sent me over a distortion pedal," Matt beams. "I'm basically best mates with Kirk Hammett now."

"KIRK HAMMETT SENT US A PEDAL!"

SO, THINGS ARE LOOKING UP?

Now, with their equipment back and their spirits high, Eva Plays Dead have been given an extra lease of life to prove that they're one of the most exciting rock bands in the UK. Latest single Bones is a straight-up anthem in the waiting. Talking about their fiery new song, Tiggy says: "It's alright that people make mistakes – we're all dickheads, we all do stupid things – but it doesn't mean we're horrible people. You've just made a mistake, you can learn from it. It's just about that aspect of life." For a band supposedly playing dead, they're doing a great job of making rock both sound and feel alive.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

WHAT: In-your-face rock'n'roll from the Midlands – but so much more!
HEAR: The band's anthemic new single Bones! It's a right little ripper.
MORE INFO: Facebook.com/EvaPlaysDead
CHECK OUT: Eva Plays Dead's awesome 2015 EP, Sounds Of The Written Word.
DON'T MISS: Eva Plays Dead and more on Alex Baker's Fresh Blood show on Wednesdays at 10pm on K! Radio.

CROSSTOWN CONCERTS PRESENTS

SUM 41

DON'T CALL IT A SUM-BACK WORLD TOUR

FRIDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2017
BIRMINGHAM
02 ACADEMY

THURSDAY 02 MARCH 2017
LONDON
02 ACADEMY BRIXTON

SATURDA SOLD OUT ARY 2017
MANCHESTER
ACADEMY

FRIDA SOLD OUT H 2017
BRISTOL
02 ACADEMY

SUNDAY SOLD OUT RY 2017
LEEDS
02 ACADEMY

SATURD SOLD OUT CH 2017
NOTTINGHAM
ROCK CITY

TUESDAY SOLD OUT RY 2017
GLASGOW
BARROWLAND

MONDA SOLD OUT H 2017
SOUTHAMPTON
02 GUILDHALL

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SUM41.COM

A CROSSTOWN CONCERTS, SJM CONCERTS, DF CONCERTS, SLAMDUNK MUSIC, DHP & PVC PRESENTATION BY ARRANGEMENT UNITED TALENT AGENCY

KILIMANJARO PRESENTS

KILIMANJARO AND HANDWERKER PROMOTION PRESENTS

TOKIO HOTEL

Dream Machine

TOUR 2017

SUNDAY 12 MARCH

LONDON

KOKO

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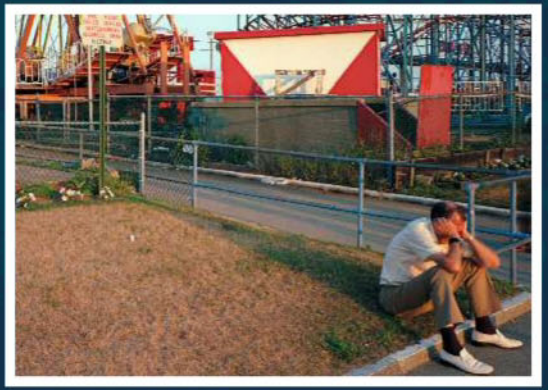
WWW.TOKIOHOTEL.COM

UK TOUR 2017

THE MENZINGERS

THE FLATLINERS



APRIL

TUESDAY 18 SOUTHAMPTON TALKING HEADS
WEDNESDAY 19 LONDON KOKO
THURSDAY 20 MANCHESTER ACADEMY 2
FRIDAY 21 BRISTOL BIERKELLER
SATURDAY 22 GLASGOW ORAN MOR
SUNDAY 23 DERBY THE VENUE
MONDAY 24 NORWICH EPIC STUDIOS

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Epitaph

A CROSSTOWN CONCERTS & FRIENDS PRESENTATION BY ARRANGEMENT WITH UNITED TALENT AGENCY

APOCALYPTICA

20 YEARS OF 'PLAYS METALLICA BY FOUR CELLOS'

A LIVE PERFORMANCE BY FOUR CELLOS OF THE ENTIRE ALBUM & MORE METALLICA CLASSICS

FEBRUARY 2017
27 MANCHESTER BRIDGEWATER HALL
28 EDINBURGH QUEENS HALL

MARCH 2017
01 LONDON ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL

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THE ALBUM "PLAYS METALLICA BY FOUR CELLOS" OUT NOW

A KILIMANJARO AND DF MUSIC PRESENTATION BY ARRANGEMENT X RAY

ODYSSEY

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT MYTICKET.CO.UK

AVOCADO BOOKING & KILIMANJARO PRESENT

Parkway Drive

SPECIAL GUESTS: ASKING ALEXANDRIA · STICK TO YOUR GUNS

UNBREAKABLE TOUR | UK 2017

08TH APRIL LONDON O2 ACADEMY BRIXTON
09TH APRIL NOTTINGHAM ROCK CITY
10TH APRIL LEEDS O2 ACADEMY
11TH APRIL CARDIFF UNIVERSITY GREAT HALL

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AVOCADOBOOKING · KILIMANJARO LIVE · PARKWAYDRIVEROCK.COM · FACEBOOK.COM/PARKWAYDRIVE · IMPERIUM.COM

THE UK CHAOS TOUR

ATTILA

PLUS SPECIAL GUESTS THE WORD ALIVE

APRIL
01 GLASGOW GARAGE
02 LEEDS KEY CLUB
03 NOTTINGHAM RESCUE ROOMS
04 BIRMINGHAM O2 ACADEMY2
05 BRISTOL MARBLE FACTORY
06 MANCHESTER ACADEMY 2
07 LONDON ELECTRIC BALLROOM
09 SOUTHAMPTON ENGINE ROOMS

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WWW.ATTILABAND.COM · MODERN EMPIRE

A KILIMANJARO AND FRIENDS PRESENTATION BY ARRANGEMENT WITH CAA

MALLORY KNOX

WIRED TOUR

PLUS SPECIAL GUESTS

LONELY THE BRAVE

FATHERSON

MARCH 2017
20 BRISTOL O2 ACADEMY
21 CARDIFF TRAMSHED
22 NORWICH UEA
24 BIRMINGHAM O2 INSTITUTE
25 SHEFFIELD LEADMILL
26 CAMBRIDGE CORN EXCHANGE
28 ABERDEEN GARAGE
29 EDINBURGH LIQUID ROOM
31 NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY SU
APRIL 2017
01 LIVERPOOL O2 ACADEMY
02 PORTSMOUTH PYRAMIDS
04 OXFORD O2 ACADEMY
05 LONDON KOKO
06 LONDON KOKO

THE NEW ALBUM WIRED OUT MARCH 10TH

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WWW.MALLORYKNOX.COM

A KILIMANJARO, GOLDENVOICE AND FRIENDS PRESENTATION BY ARRANGEMENT WITH UNITED TALENT AGENCY & NEW POWER MANAGEMENT

KILIMANJARO AND FRIENDS BY ARRANGEMENT WITH UNITED TALENT AGENCY PRESENTS

EUROPEAN TOUR 2017

STATE CHAMPS

As It Is

Northbound

09 Mar Southampton Engine Rooms
10 Mar Bristol O2 Academy
11 Mar Manchester O2 Ritz
13 Mar Newcastle Riverside
14 Mar Glasgow Garage
16 Mar Leeds Beckett Student Union
17 Mar Birmingham O2 Institute
18 Mar London O2 Forum Kentish Town

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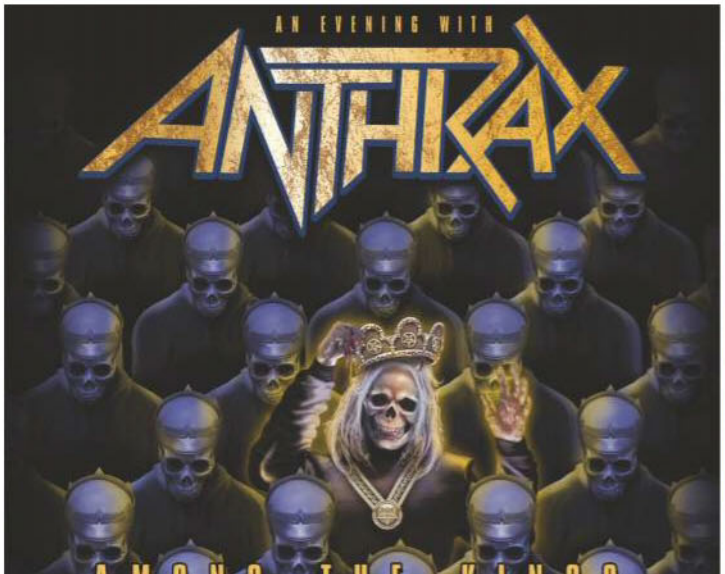
AN EVENING WITH

ANTHRAX



AMONG THE KINGS

PERFORMING 'AMONG THE LIVING' IN FULL & OTHER CLASSICS

+ THE RAVEN AGE

FEB

09 BIRMINGHAM O_2 INSTITUTE
10 LONDON O_2 FORUM KENTISH TOWN
11 BRISTOL O_2 ACADEMY
13 NOTTINGHAM ROCK CITY
14 MANCHESTER ACADEMY
15 GLASGOW BARROWLAND
16 NEWCASTLE NORTHUMBRIA UNIVERSITY
17 NORWICH UEA

ANTHRAX NEW ALBUM 'FOR ALL KINGS' IN STORES NOW

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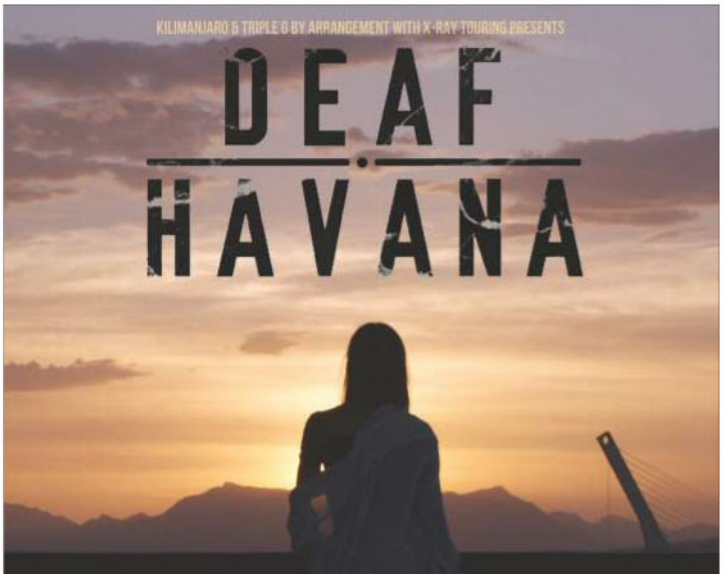
ANTHRAX.COM

A KILIMANJARO AND TRIPLE 8 PRESENTATION BY ARRANGEMENT WITH K2 AGENCY

KILIMANJARO & TRIPLE 8 BY ARRANGEMENT WITH X-RAY TOURING PRESENTS

DEAF HAVANA



FEBRUARY

17 MANCHESTER O_2 RITZ
18 GLASGOW O_2 ABC
20 BRISTOL O_2 ACADEMY
21 BIRMINGHAM O_2 INSTITUTE
23 NORWICH UEA
24 LONDON O_2 FORUM

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/DEAFHAVANA DEAFHAVANAOFFICIAL.COM /DEAFHAVANA

'ALL THESE COUNTLESS NIGHTS' 27.01.17

---

uk tour

SEAWAY

24/01 | SOUTHAMPTON | JOINERS
25/01 | BRISTOL | THE FLEECE
26/01 | LEEDS | THE KEY CLUB
27/01 | GLASGOW | STEREO
29/01 | NEWCASTLE | O_2 ACADEMY2
30/01 | MANCHESTER | SOUND CONTROL
31/01 | NOTTINGHAM | ROCK CITY BASEMENT
01/02 | NORWICH | EPIC STUDIOS
02/02 | BIRMINGHAM | O_2 ACADEMY3
03/02 | LONDON | UNDERWORLD

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WSTR / THE GOSPEL YOUTH

A KILIMANJARO AND FRIENDS PRESENTATION BY ARRANGEMENT WITH CAA

PULLED APART BY HORSES

MARCH
27 OXFORD O_2 ACADEMY 2
28 LONDON SCALA
29 BRISTOL THEKLA
30 SOUTHAMPTON TALKING HEADS

APRIL
02 BIRMINGHAM MAMA ROUX
03 NORWICH WATERFRONT STUDIO
05 GLASGOW KING TUTS
06 MANCHESTER SOUND CONTROL
07 NEWCASTLE THINK TANK
08 LEEDS BRUDENELL SOCIAL CLUB

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PULLEDAPARTBYHORSES.COM

RAW POWER MANAGEMENT

UTA UNITED TALENT AGENCY

A KILIMANJARO & FRIENDS PRESENTATION IN ASSOCIATION WITH UNITED TALENT AGENCY

BEACH SLANG

20 JAN — BRISTOL
// Exchange

21 JAN — BRIGHTON
// The Haunt

24 JAN — GLASGOW
// Mono

25 JAN — LEEDS
// Brudenell Social Club

26 JAN — LONDON
// Scala

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BEACHSLANG.COM / BANDSINTOWN.COM/BEACHSLANG

A KILIMANJARO AND FRIENDS PRESENTATION BY ARRANGEMENT WITH PRIMARY TALENT INTERNATIONAL

THE NEW ALBUM
'A LOUD BASH OF TEENAGE FEELINGS'
OUT NOW

KILIMANJARO BY ARRANGEMENT WITH CONTRA PROMOTION + RTN-TOURING PRESENT

EPICA POWERWOLF

+ BEYOND THE BLACK

FRIDAY 3 FEBRUARY 2017
LONDON O_2 SHEPHERD'S BUSH EMPIRE

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VIP UPGRADES AVAILABLE FROM SOUNDRINK.COM EPICA.NL POWERWOLF.NET

EPICA NEW ALBUM IN STORES NOW
POWERWOLF NEW DVD/BLU-RAY IN STORES NOW

K!OMMUNITY
IT'S YOUR PAGE, YOUR LIFE!

THE BARK PARADE!
"Turned my puppy into an MCR Gerard Way from The Black Parade," says ***ChelseyX****. Evidently he wasn't so into it he'd let you bleach his fur blond like Gerard's…*

COOKIEPHERNELIA
"Me and my friends got Pierce The Veil Millie's Cookies – they got the date wrong but I'm sure it tasted goooood," says ***@MegzzAnne****. Since they got the date wrong, you must give this to us. Like, seriously, you cannot give PTV a cookie with the wrong date on it. SEND IT TO US NOW! Address is in the back of the mag. Good luck with getting it re-made.*

WINNER!

FRNKIERO ANDTHE BAKRS
"My pretty cake inspired by the one and only Frank Iero! P.S. go check out Parachutes," says ***@onlypluggedin2****. We hadn't thought about listening to that album, so we'll go do it now – thanks for the advice. And as a prize for putting up with our sarcasm (and making this amazing Frank cake), you've won a meet-and-greet with Taking Back Sunday and tickets to see them play! Well done.*

YOU LOVE GREEN DAY!

THE RESPONSE TO LAST WEEK'S GREEN DAY COVERS CD WAS OVERWHELMING! HERE'S WHAT YOU THOUGHT!

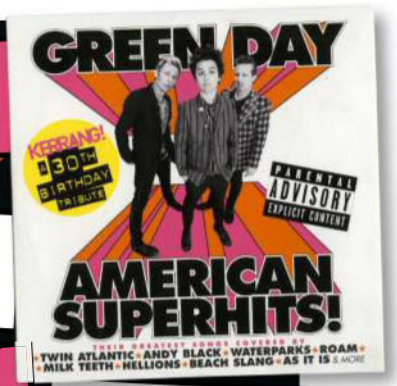
"Love this week's @KerrangMagazine – the @andyblack & @waterparks covers are amazing!"
@IAMEMMAEVANS

"These covers are amazing! Thank you everyone, including @ASITISofficial @ROAMse @waterparks @KerrangMagazine for making this art."
@ABBIE_JOHNNS

"The new @KerrangMagazine issue is amazing! I love @waterparks and @ASITISofficial's covers – they're sick!"
@CARAZAMATAZBTCH

"@KerrangMagazine this is so amazing and I seriously love it!"
@DUH_STELLA

"I have @andyblack's cover of 21 Guns on replay. I love it so much!"
@ASKING_ABBEY



"Oh sweet baby Jeebus, Andeh covering my all time fav @GreenDay song!! Heart palpitations – call a medic!"
@LONDONSMOM951

"Hitchin' A Ride by @waterparks is my new favourite cover ever! Thank you @KerrangMagazine for blessing the world with this!"
@STUPIDFORLUKE

"Green Day + Twin Atlantic = Dying. Good Riddance by @TwinAtlantic is probably the best thing I've heard this year. Thanks @KerrangMagazine!"
@DESSOUSDEMARINE

"Okay, I just wanna say that @andyblack cover of 21 Guns is amazing and everyone needs to go buy the new @KerrangMagazine!"
@TINKLEBOOO

"Loving the new Superhits CD of @GreenDay in the new and improved @KerrangMagazine. Awesome – Can't wait for the next special CD."
@THEROCKSTARVAM1

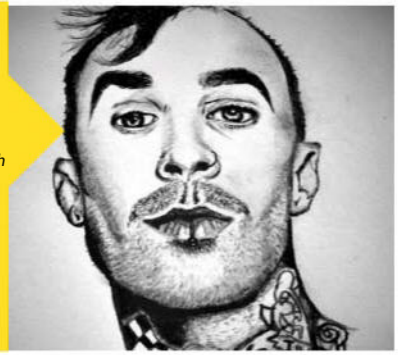
FACE IN THE CROWD

IS THIS YOU?

BAND: The Amity Affliction
WHEN: 06.12.16
WHERE: Roundhouse, London

■ IS THIS you, doing a very poor imitation of a rabbit with your hand at The Amity Affliction's colossal London show last week? Well, your picture may be completely ruined, but judging by your tongue you're a licky guy, and the gods of fate are smiling on you because, guess what?! ***YOU'VE WON A PAIR OF TICKETS TO SEE HELLIONS' MASSIVE UK TOUR IN 2017!*** Get in touch at feedback@kerrang.com to claim your prize, and get ready to make more gig-tastic hand gestures!

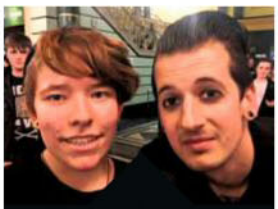
GIVE THE ARTIST SOME



***Hannah Travis**, aged 18, from Liverpool's sketch of Travis Barker is so sassy. Look at that pout – that's a look that could melt steel beams.*

COLLIDE WITH THE BAND (AT THE O2)!

*"I met Jaime and Tony from PTV at the Justin Bieber concert at the O2 last night!!" yells **@Iterap** on Twitter. How serendipitous that you would wear a PTV shirt to a Justin Bieber show, where you would meet PTV. Wait a second… is that Batman in the back? His PTV top was obviously in the wash.*



CREEP THE FAITH

*"Met Sean from Creeper last night at the Pierce The Veil show," says **@TheTideStitch**. "Such a good night." And that's BEFORE you met Creeper. You must have ridden a magic cloud made of good vibes all the way home.*

REMEMBERING THE REV

*Here's a nice tribute to A7X's late drummer The Rev here from **Seamus**, aged 13. Good work, Seamus, and we'll all be sparing a thought for the big man's friends and family over the festive period. A terrific talent, never to be forgotten.*

HALSEY MY DRAWING!

*"Insanely happy with how this little painting of Halsey turned out," beams **@paranormaldun**. Magnificent work. It's creepy and we like it a lot. Especially the eyes – they're so dead and evil-looking. We can feel them sucking the soul right out of us and imprisoning us in a weird, otherworldly fortress of darkness buried deep in the Upside Down, where evil birds will peck eternally at it as we type. Lucky the real Halsey isn't a demon, eh? That'd be bad. Very bad.*

NEXT ISSUE

WIN! THE ULTIMATE SANTA'S SACK!

On the first day of Kerristmas, my true love gave to me, ABSOLUTELY EVERYTHING HE COULD GET HIS HANDS ON! Seriously, we're giving away a ginormous Christmas sack full of swag – Sleeping With Sirens shirts, BABYMETAL gear, Iron Maiden CDs, patches, stickers, EVERYTHING! In keeping with the festive spirit, we'd really like some pictures of twenty one pilots, BABYMETAL or My Chemical Romance made out of sprouts – send 'em with the hashtag #Kommunity and this could all be yours!

TAG YOUR STUFF WITH #KOMMUNITY

*Show us via Twitter (**@KerrangMagazine**), Instagram (**kerrangmagazine_**) or **feedback@kerrang.com**!*

THANKS TO: SPINEFARM, MERCH FOR LIFE, VANS, NUCLEAR BLAST, WILFUL PUBLICITY, WARNER BROS AND JAMES SHERRY

ROCKING AROUND THE KERRISTMAS TREE

IT'S THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR – AND WITH **KERRANG!'S ANNUAL KERRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA**, IT CAN BE THE LOUDEST, TOO. BEFORE WE GET INTO THE FESTIVE FROLICS, THOUGH, WE CAUGHT UP WITH SOME OF THE WORLD'S BIGGEST STARS – FROM **ANDY BIERSACK** TO **AVENGED SEVENFOLD**, TO **BABYMETAL**, **BLINK-182** AND MANY, MANY MORE BESIDES – TO TRY AND MAKE SENSE OF A ROLLER COASTER 12 MONTHS IN ROCK AND BEYOND…

My 2016

New Years Day

ASH COSTELLO

ROCK'S RESIDENT QUEEN OF SCREAM HAD AN UP, DOWN AND FRANKLY BIZARRE 12 MONTHS…

2016: AWESOME, OR AWFUL?

"I'm gonna go with both. It was definitely a combination of 'Fuck this!' and, 'Wow, things are going really well right now!' Band-wise it was awesome – we kept getting better and getting bigger opportunities and did some incredible stuff, and I had a lot of great experiences outside of that, too. At the other end of the scale, it was kind of a bad year personally, but it's actually ending in a good place, so I'm not complaining."

DID YOU MEET ANY OF YOUR HEROES?

"Oh yeah! I met Marilyn Manson, Alice Cooper, I met Dave Mustaine – and he tweeted me, which was a shocker! I got to meet a lot of The Walking Dead cast and a bunch of the Rob Zombie guys, plus some of the members of Rammstein – who knew who I was! Probably the highlight would be when we were on tour with Marilyn Manson, and I was wearing a shirt that said 'Marilyn Manson is my daddy'. He was so thrilled he took my hand and walked me across the stage to show me off to the crowd!"

WHAT WAS THE MOST FUN THING YOU DID OUTSIDE OF THE BAND?

"I got to interview [camp '80s horror star] Elvira, which was *so* awesome, and I got to visit a lot of haunted attractions. I went to eight, which is more than I've ever managed in one year. The best one I went to is called 17th Door, which is in Tustin, California, and it was both intense and *so* much fun. They do everything they can to freak you out, including hanging animal intestines around your neck! I'll admit I wasn't happy about that, and I'm pretty sure I got slapped in the face with a cow kidney or something! (*Laughs*) But, hey, it was different!"

WAS IT A GOOD YEAR FOR YOUR CLOTHING LABEL BAT ROYALTY?

"Oh my gosh, it was a *fantastic* year for Bat Royalty! The clothes started being sold in Hot Topic this summer, which was one of the most incredible things that has ever happened to me. I remember shopping in that store when I was 14, and being able to visit stores all across the country and seeing my clothes in them as well as a big picture of me in the window was a huge deal. It was hard to believe!"

FINALLY, WHO DID YOU MOST WANT TO PUNCH THIS YEAR?

"*Everybody*. I'm kidding – but anyone behind any of the internet challenges that were a total trend deserve one. Someone needs to fucking stop them!"

WORDS: DAN SLESSOR **PHOTO:** JEREMY SAFFER

My 2016

AVENGED SEVENFOLD

M. SHADOWS

IT'S BEEN A YEAR OF SURPRISES FOR **M.** – BUT THERE ARE SOME KERRISTMAS SURPRISES HE'S FINE GOING WITHOUT…

"Own up – who took the paper hat out of my cracker?"

"CHRISTMAS IS BETTER AS A PARENT. MY KIDS THINK SANTA IS THE GREATEST!"
M. SHADOWS

WHAT ARE YOUR PERSONAL 2016 HIGHLIGHTS?

"I have two boys, so my highlight has been watching them grow up and become really cool people. Showing up at lunchtime when my son's at pre-school and reading kids' books – that was the highlight for me this year. You've got to take advantage of that when your kids still think you're cool, because very soon they're not going to think you're cool any more (*laughs*)!"

AND WHAT'S BEEN THE BEST THING ABOUT AVENGED SEVENFOLD'S YEAR?

"Musically, my highlight would have to be that we put out a very challenging record for our fans, and people just *got it*. When you're so deep into a record and you put it out, you never know how people are going to react, and I actually thought it would go over a lot of people's heads. It's been over *some* people's heads, and that's fine, but the overall reaction to it has been so positive; it was shocking to me, especially coming off a really simple record in [2013's] Hail To The King, and then we go and throw a complete curveball. So, just being able to pull this whole thing off and that people *like it* has been a total highlight."

WHEN DID YOU START SETTING THIS ALL IN MOTION?

"We had written the album and then we were going into the studio, and our social media girl was like, 'Why don't you send me a picture of you guys in the studio?' We were probably six or seven months before release, and I was thinking about it like, 'Isn't that kind of starting this too soon?' Because if people see that we're in the studio, they're going to think it's further along than it is. And they're going to see an amp in there and they're going to go, 'Well, if they're using *that* amp then that means it's going to be like *this*!' It just gets so overblown so quickly, and I was like, 'What's the benefit of putting up a picture right now?' And she was like, 'Well, people will be engaged.' So I said, 'But what's the *benefit*?' And that's how it started. Then we went for like a month in the studio and I was still like, 'I don't want people to know that we're in here.' It kept becoming more and more secretive. And so we were like, 'Let's just do a surprise release!'"

WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR KERRISTMAS?

"Oh, just snowboarding – I'm gonna get my kids learning how to snowboard! And then we're gonna go and hang out in the desert after the snowboarding. And then, immediately after that, we go to Ireland to start production on the UK tour. We have a full week that we're going to be doing pre-production because we have a whole new stage built for the record, and it's a lot of moving parts, so we have to figure out how it's gonna work. By the time we get to London it should be going good – we'll be, like, 12 shows in. Everyone else is gonna get fucked-up shit (*laughs*)!"

WHAT ARE THE BEST AND WORST KERRISTMAS PRESENTS YOU'VE EVER RECEIVED?

"The worst is always clothes for guys – you know when your grandma tries to pick out clothes when you're young? I don't know about the best Christmas present I've ever gotten – I think Christmas is better when you're a parent. Last year we got our son one of those John Deere [ride-on mini] tractors. He thinks it's like a full-size tractor and he drives it around the city. He's got a little AM radio on it and he thinks he's a farmer, which is hilarious. I love the whole thing of giving presents to our kids, because they just freak out. They think Santa's the greatest!"

WORDS: EMILY CARTER **PHOTO:** ANDY FORD

My 2016

SLEEPING WITH SIRENS

KELLIN QUINN

IF 2016 HAS TAUGHT **KELLIN** ANYTHING, IT'S TO GO EASY ON THE PARTYING OVER KERRISTMAS...

WORDS: DAN SLESSOR

SO, 2016: BADASS OR JUST PLAIN BAD?

"It was badass, and I can't complain at all. We got to play some amazing shows, and after being hesitant about going back and doing Warped Tour it turned out to be something truly great, and it was one of my favourite things we did this year. Having the Maddens [Joel and Benji, from Good Charlotte] come on-board as managers was a great thing for us, too, and I also think we've really grown as a band, and we're very, very excited for the future."

HOW DID IT FEEL HAVING YOUR VOCALS FEATURED ON A GOOD CHARLOTTE RECORD?

"Thinking back to when I was younger and listening to their records, it was definitely surreal actually being a part of one of their songs. But knowing those guys like I do, yeah, they're Good Charlotte, but they're also my friends, and doing music with your friends is always going to be awesome and very comfortable."

DID YOUR ACOUSTIC TOURS AND THE ALBUM YOU DROPPED SPARK SOME CREATIVITY IN A DIFFERENT DIRECTION?

"Not necessarily, but it felt right to do those tours. It's something we'll possibly do again down the road – we always love to bust out the acoustics, and it's great being able to strip your songs back and tear them down and recreate them with a whole different vibe. I think that's a good way to keep becoming a better artist."

WHAT WAS YOUR PROUDEST DAD-MOMENT THIS YEAR?

"My daughter's going to pre-school right now, and she's learning so many different things. The other day she came home and said, 'Dad, 'bonjour' means 'hello' in French!' That was very cute! She's already showing signs of wanting to be a performer; she's always singing and watching Michael Jackson dancing videos on YouTube, and trying to dance like him. And I can honestly say her Michael Jackson moves are way better than mine!"

WHAT WAS THE BEST BOOK YOU READ?

"There were a couple – I re-read The BFG again, which I love, and another one called The Haters, by Jesse Andrews, which was awesome. It's about a group of kids that go to a jazz camp and they end up leaving without telling anyone and try to go on tour as a real band. It's exciting and funny, and reminds me of my band touring in a 15-passenger van, never knowing where we were going to sleep that night, and it was definitely fun revisiting some of those memories."

DID YOU DO ANYTHING CREATIVELY OUTSIDE OF MUSIC?

"I like to paint and draw whenever I have the chance, and I kept up with that a lot, which was very satisfying. Taking paint on the road is a bad idea, so I tend to do it mostly when I'm home, and I posted some of the pictures on my Instagram and people seemed to like them, which is cool."

LASTLY, HAVE YOU HAD ANY EPIC FAILS IN 2016?

"We were on tour when our bassist Justin [Hills] had a birthday, and I failed to keep up! I had a little bit of a puking session while everyone else carried on drinking just fine. The night was a blast, though – the band and crew all piled into the back lounge on the bus and we made an epic mosh-pit in there, jumping off counters and doing front-flips on top of each other. And I definitely felt the effects of all of that the next day!"

My 2016

THE PRETTY RECKLESS

TAYLOR MOMSEN

WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN HER 2016 TO MAKE **TAYLOR** EYE UP A MOVE TO, ER, PLYMOUTH IN THE NEW YEAR?

WORDS: PAUL TRAVERS **PHOTO:** ANDREW LIPOVSKY

HOW MUCH DID COMPLETING YOUR THIRD ALBUM, WHO YOU SELLING FOR, FILL THE FIRST HALF OF YOUR YEAR?

"It completely filled it. We were still working on it until the end of June and I'd say it was our sole focus. We really went for it on this record with a vengeance."

HOW DOES IT FEEL WHEN YOU FINISH SOMETHING YOU'VE POURED YOUR EVERYTHING IN TO?

"It feels very exciting and rewarding, and at the same time completely exhausting. You're exhausted because you've just thrown all your energy and focus into something so intensely for such a long period of time. When you finish there's just this big empty hole and you have to figure out how to fill that hole and move forward."

OUTSIDE OF THE STUDIO, HOW WAS YOUR TIME ON THE ROAD IN 2016?

"It was fantastic. The shows were great aside from the fact that we all got sick at the beginning of the U.S. tour. It's very difficult and we unfortunately had to cancel or reschedule a show because I had full-on lost my voice. Our bus driver was sick and when you're living together in such close proximity, if one person gets sick you're all going to go down at some point! That took us down for a little bit, but apart from that it's been smooth sailing and a blast."

DID YOUR LONDON HEADLINER STAND OUT?

"Oh yeah, that was a blast. It was so good to be back in London with a sold-out crowd. They knew all the words to the old material, and they knew the songs that we'd just released. The record wasn't out so we wanted to reintroduce ourselves with a smaller show and say, 'Hey, remember us, we're coming back!' It was a perfect show for us at that time. I love the UK, and I've even been talking about moving there!"

REALLY? WOULD YOU BE LOOKING FOR A PLACE IN LONDON?

"I don't know. I really like London but I like northern England and a lot of other places I've been to in the UK. I love Plymouth, and the area outside of Glasgow's really cool, too. I've seen a lot of places that I like, so maybe I could move around and rent before choosing somewhere to settle properly!"

WE'RE SURE PLYMOUTH WOULD WELCOME YOU WITH OPEN ARMS. WHAT WAS THE BEST GIG YOU WENT TO THIS YEAR?

"I don't get to go to many shows when we're recording but I did get to see Pearl Jam, which was pretty spectacular. I was a huge fan of theirs growing up, they're so talented, and I saw them at [baseball stadium] Fenway Park in Boston. It was pretty cool and they put on a hell of a show. It was long, too – those guys still have a lot of stamina!"

TO END ON A CHEERY NOTE, WHAT WAS THE WORST THING ABOUT 2016?

"I don't even know where to begin. The politics of 2016 were just insane, there was the loss of so many great artists. Losing David Bowie was devastating to me because I was a huge fan of his. There was Prince, too – the list goes on and on. It was a crazy year for a lot of reasons and I think we're at a tipping point right now. It's going to go one way or another, but hopefully things will take a more positive direction in 2017."

My 2016

Panic! at the Disco

BRENDON URIE

2016 SAW THE DEATH OF A BACHELOR, AND THE INTRODUCTION OF A WHOLE NEW **BRENDON**

WHAT'S THE CRAZIEST THING THAT'S HAPPENED TO YOU THIS YEAR, BRENDON?

"I almost got lit on fire during Bohemian Rhapsody [at Slam Dunk festival in May] – that was so crazy! We were pretty groggy and sleepy because we had done two shows that morning and I wasn't really feeling myself, so I forgot about [the incoming fire] 'til the last second. I'm holding this high note and then I turn around and kinda see it out of the corner of my eye as I'm singing, and I'm like, 'Oh crap!' So I had to jump up a little earlier than expected just to get out of the way. I was so nervous [to headline Slam Dunk]. I was like, 'I don't know how this is gonna go… It's our first time headlining a festival and I don't know what it's like.' I had talked to other bands who'd done it and they were like, 'It is sooo much fun!' But I can't just take somebody's word for it, so of course I was anxious. But I was floored by the response, it was so amazing. Once we were finished with that I kinda missed it, because there were so many bands I was a fan of [playing]. It was such a cool line-up, with so many cool people. To be able to do something like that… Oh my God."

WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED ABOUT YOURSELF THIS YEAR?

"I learned I can push myself. At Slam Dunk we had to do [Radio 1's Big Weekend] in the morning [of Slam Dunk Midlands], and then we had to run and finish Slam Dunk, and we thought: a) we weren't going to make the call times to actually play the show, and b) that we weren't going to be able to play it physically, because we'd had no sleep – we were just talking in tongues! This year I learned how to just do things better, like touring better – you may have to sacrifice a couple things just to stay healthier, but it's gonna be so much better in the long run. And I think I learned the compromise of that. Give yourself a little bit of time to heal before you party again, and maybe treat yourself a little better so you can perform better for everyone else."

WHAT'S CHANGED FOR YOU IN THE LAST YEAR?

"Hmmm… (*Thinks for a while*) I'm more pleased with how the performance has been going in terms of the live show – I'm really happy with my progress and our progress as a band. For me, I'm just pleased that it feels like all of the hard work is paying off, in terms of immediate reaction from the crowd. I really enjoy getting that immediate, visceral, spontaneous reaction from people."

WHERE ARE YOU AT WITH LIFE IN GENERAL, AT THE END OF 2016?

"I'm having a lot more fun with live shows – I never thought that would be possible. I thought I would get tired after a while. I talked to a lot of older artists and they say that they're happy and stuff, but I'm sure it wears down on you. After two or three decades it's gotta be wearing you down! I just wanna keep the momentum going – I love it! I wanna see what else I'm capable of and what else Panic! can do. And I mentioned [in my Kerrang! Guest Edit issue – K!1646] that I'd like to do Broadway – it'd be fun to try other stuff."

YOU ALSO WORKED ON SOME NEW MUSIC THIS YEAR, RIGHT?

"Yeah. I hung out with my buddy Jake Sinclair [who produced Death Of A Bachelor]. It was good 'cause I had a couple days off in New York and I just spent those days hanging with him and we caught up a little bit. We listened to a couple of new songs and I was like, 'What do you think about these?' And he's like, 'Great! We should start working on 'em!' So now we're in talks of figuring out the logistics of a studio day to go and record stuff. I'm still working, actually – when we're done talking here, I'm gonna work [on songs] for a few hours before bed!"

WILL THESE SONGS BE FOR A NEW ALBUM, PERHAPS?

"What's funny is I'm not even thinking about an album right now – I'm just thinking about songs, and that's usually how it starts. This Is Gospel was [a song that started out as a single] but ended up on the album afterwards, as was Hallelujah. That happens sometimes, 'cause I just *love* songs. I get excited by a three-and-a-half minute idea. If it ends up on the album, great; if not, that's fine. But I love working. I'm always excited to make new music."

WORDS: JENNYFER J. WALKER **PHOTO:** ANDY FORD

My 2016

BABYMETAL

SU-METAL, MOAMETAL & YUIMETAL

THE ROCK PHENOMENON OF 2016 ATTEMPT TO TAKE STOCK OF AN ENORMOUS 12 MONTHS…

WAS 2016 A GOOD YEAR FOR BABYMETAL?

YUIMETAL: "This year was definitely one to remember since we had such major events – like the worldwide release of our album, Metal Resistance, and being able to have our tour finale at the prestigious Tokyo Dome. I feel that we were able to make a bigger impression on the world than ever before, and I'm so honoured to be a part of this experience."

WHAT WAS THE HIGH POINT FOR YOU?

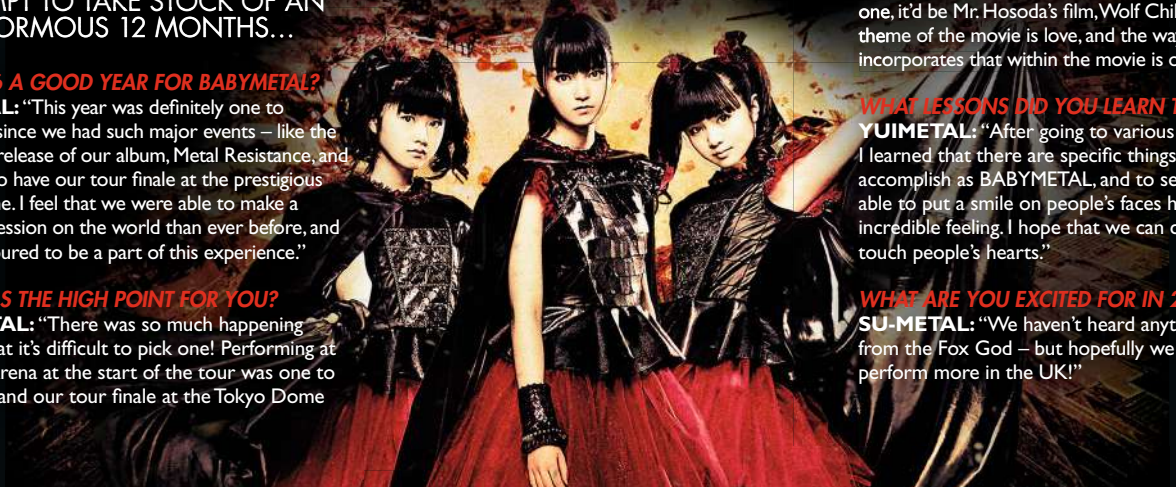
MOAMETAL: "There was so much happening this year that it's difficult to pick one! Performing at Wembley Arena at the start of the tour was one to remember, and our tour finale at the Tokyo Dome was another memorable moment. It finally felt we were back home, and to be concluding things at that venue was just amazing. But the most memorable moments of all the incredible experiences I've had are seeing our audience enjoying our performances everywhere we've played."

HOW DID IT FEEL BEING ONSTAGE AT THE SSE ARENA, WEMBLEY?

YUIMETAL: "To be able to headline and perform in front of people from various countries felt very surreal, and I am just so thankful to be given this opportunity."

WHAT WAS THE CRAZIEST THING THAT THE FOX GOD PROPHESIED?

SU-METAL: "Probably Download; I couldn't believe my eyes! There were *soooo* many people and the experience was absolutely mindblowing!"



WHO WAS THE MOST FAMOUS PERSON YOU MET?

MOAMETAL: "It's hard to pick one as we've met a *lot* of famous people! Everyone has been incredibly nice to us, and to see how serious every artist is towards music is just amazing. I feel I learn a lot every time we meet someone famous."

WHAT WAS THE BEST OUTFIT YOU WORE?

MOAMETAL: "I personally like the long-sleeved outfit we wore during our Wembley performance. It looked strange at first sight, since I've been so used to seeing red parts on our outfits, but I came to realise how light and trendy the outfit was, and as a result it has become my favourite ever since!"

WHAT WAS THE BEST FILM YOU WATCHED?

YUIMETAL: "I enjoy watching Mr. Mamoru Hosoda's films, as well as [Studio] Ghibli films. If I were to pick one, it'd be Mr. Hosoda's film, Wolf Children. The main theme of the movie is love, and the way Mr. Hosoda incorporates that within the movie is outstanding."

WHAT LESSONS DID YOU LEARN THIS YEAR?

YUIMETAL: "After going to various countries I learned that there are specific things we can accomplish as BABYMETAL, and to see that we are able to put a smile on people's faces has been an incredible feeling. I hope that we can continue to touch people's hearts."

WHAT ARE YOU EXCITED FOR IN 2017?

SU-METAL: "We haven't heard anything yet from the Fox God – but hopefully we are able to perform more in the UK!"

WORDS: DAN SLESSOR

My 2016

BLACK VEIL BRIDES

ANDY BIERSACK

FROM GETTING MARRIED TO LAUNCHING **ANDY BLACK** INTO THE WORLD, IT'S BEEN A BUSY TIME IN THE **BIERSACK** HOUSEHOLD. NOT SO BUSY THAT HE COULDN'T IMPROVE HIS DIY SKILLS, THOUGH…

HOW KIND HAS 2016 BEEN TO YOU, ANDY?

"It's been an interesting year, because from a career perspective it represented two different things: I launched the Andy Black project and released a record – I've had a lot of success with that and it's been a lot of fun. And then we started the fifth BVB record on December 1, 2015 and [exactly one year later] we're just about done. So it took an entire year to make this record and it feels awesome! We celebrated our 10th anniversary in November, and we've never had an opportunity in those 10 years to make a record that we were able to take that long on. So between making that record, touring constantly for Andy Black, and launching my own radio show [The Andy Show], it has been a really busy year. Politically, and in a few other ways, it has been a down year for a lot of people in the United States. But on a personal level it's been great. And this year has been hugely important for me on a personal family level. I got married and I've been sober for an entire year now – I've changed entirely in terms of my diet and it's just been a transitionary year for me."

"I'M TRYING TO BE A HAPPIER, HEALTHIER ME"
ANDY BIERSACK

SO YOU'RE FEELING BETTER HEALTH-WISE?

"Yeah, in summer 2015 I stopped eating meat and transitioned into being a vegetarian and started feeling a bit healthier, then I completely stopped drinking and it's been getting gradually better. At this point I'm nearly 100 per cent vegan and working out every day and just trying to be a healthier, happier version of myself. [I'm trying to be] a better husband, a solid life partner and friend to my bandmates and people in my life."

WE'RE GUESSING YOUR PERSONAL HIGHLIGHT WAS GETTING MARRIED…

"Certainly, yeah. It was such a wonderful wedding and it was so cool to think that people who have been working with me on the road for years helped me build my wedding. My tour manager was my best man, and the guy who did all of our artwork came and we built the wedding together, the same way we've been putting up backdrops and lighting rigs up [at shows]. The whole experience was beautiful, and our first dance to KISS' Forever was a lot of fun because I can't dance *at all* – it was hilarious in that it's an '80s sentimental ballad and I cannot dance, so I was just listening and kinda singing the song to my wife."

DID YOU LEARN ANY NEW SKILLS THIS YEAR?

"Yeah, I taught myself how to effectively build shelves. We moved to a new house and I wanted to put up some shelves, so I had to teach myself how to do it. They've not fallen down yet! I also learned how to fix my tyres and everything on my [car] without having to go to a mechanic, and the way I learned all this shit was by YouTube tutorials! My wife could not believe that I fixed the car and the tyres – she was like, 'I thought you were going to screw that stuff up!'"

WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR KERRISTMAS?

"I'm going home to Cincinnati. My wife is originally from Florida and my birthday is on the 26th and my mother-in-law's birthday is on the 27th, so we usually celebrate together in Florida. We may go down to Harry Potter World or Universal Studios as my wife is a huge Harry Potter fan."

BOXING DAY IS ALSO YOUR BIRTHDAY. WHAT'S IT LIKE HAVING A BIRTHDAY AT KERRISTMAS?

"It's kind of a bullshit birthday, right (*laughs*)? Every present I get is a combination for birthday and Christmas. You wouldn't have the opportunity to do that at any other time! If my birthday was in April you'd look like a lunatic to give me a present and say, 'Hey, I know your birthday is in April but this is for your birthday and Christmas.' With the exception of my family, my parents and my wife and her family, everyone gives me combo gifts."

DO YOU HAVE ANY BIERSACK FAMILY KERRISTMAS TRADITIONS?

"Just watching American football. I tend to really harass my parents to make sure there are enough decorations at the house. I spend a great deal of time online looking at scented candles to accentuate our home, so if I get [to my parents' house] and my mom has not put up an adequate amount of decorations that, to me, represent nostalgia and childhood, I will be very upset! Our family tradition is my mom explaining that she didn't really have time… My whole life I begged to have Christmas lights outside, but the two homes I lived in as a kid never had adequate electric supplies to do the lighting that I wanted, so we never fucking had it. I could totally light the outside of my home now, but we're not going to be home much so I don't know that it's worth my time!"

Andy: not one to spend Kerristmas day in his pyjamas, then

WORDS: JENNYFER J. WALKER **PHOTO:** PAUL HARRIES

My 2016

Against Me!

LAURA JANE GRACE

WITH A BRILLIANT ALBUM AND THE ROCK BOOK OF THE YEAR TO HER NAME, 2016 WAS QUITE THE TRIUMPH FOR **LAURA**. SHAME ABOUT THE OTHER STUFF…

WHAT K-RATING WOULD YOU GIVE 2016?

"This is tough, because on the one hand I've had a lot of personal accomplishments and highlights – finishing up the book, putting out a record. But on the other hand there was so much shit, whether it was the passing of so many amazing artists, or political things happening. I'm gonna have to give it 3.5Ks."

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THE RECORD, SHAPE SHIFT WITH ME, NOW YOU'VE HAD TIME TO LIVE WITH IT?

"Really good – it all still feels really fresh and all the songs are way fun to play. The record feels really representative of 2014 and 2015, which were both really *great* years, so I don't necessarily associate the record with this year. I associate it with the two previous years, and since we're about to end this year I can also associate it with 2017, and we can just pretend that 2016 didn't happen (*laughs*)."

"WE ALL NEED 2017 TO BE POSITIVE AND INSPIRING"
LAURA JANE GRACE

WHAT'S IT LIKE HAVING YOUR BOOK, TRANNY, OUT AFTER SO MANY YEARS WORKING ON IT?

"It's kind of surreal, with both the record and the book, 'cause those were two very big projects to have been working on. But the book especially – it took me four years to finish. To have had something that was in your life for four years done and gone, there's a hole, and now I'm like, 'What next?' I definitely want to keep making music, keep putting out records and keep doing tours. All we really have to do next year is just tour and play shows. I can start working on new songs, but there's no pressure, so I'm looking forward to having no pressure for a second!"

WHAT ONE THING FROM 2016 NEEDS TO BE CONSIGNED TO HELL?

"(*Laughs*) That's pretty easy – Donald Trump. Why? I don't think that there's enough pages in Kerrang! for all the reasons why! It's just such a mindfuck. My birthday was on election day, so that was *the* worst birthday ever. But then it also had me thinking: I turned 36 this year… if he's a two-term president, he will be president until I'm 44, which is fucking insane. Thinking as a parent, that's who my daughter is going to grow up with [as president]… It's like a kick in the gut."

WHAT DID YOU LEARN ABOUT YOURSELF THIS YEAR?

"I've kinda learned about limits – realising how far I can push myself mentally, and that sometimes you need to say 'no' to stuff. From a mental stress point of view, talking about book stuff, it's *hard* to write a book, and at the end of it feeling like, 'Okay, that's all I have to give and I'm about to break.' If this [book] tour hadn't have ended just now, I don't think I could have made it any further."

WHAT WILL YOU BEING DOING ON KERRISTMAS DAY?

"My daughter is gonna be with her mother on a trip to New Orleans and not coming back 'til the day after, so I think I'm gonna be alone on Christmas Day (*laughs*). I don't have any plans really; I might sleep in, I might look for some place I can volunteer and do something. I have volunteered on Christmas Day before – there was an organisation that I went to a couple times where you're just serving food to people. How do I feel about spending Christmas alone? It's fine, I guess. No, it's kind of fucking depressing (*laughs*)."

YOU CAN COME ROUND OURS IF YOU'D LIKE? WE'LL PUT ON A MOVIE. WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE KERRISTMAS FILM?

"I gotta say Elf. The past couple of Christmases, Elf has been the favourite of me and my daughter. Will Ferrell is hilarious in it – the scene where he's eating cotton balls in the doctor's office! It's like 'Stop it!' – but he just keeps stuffing them in!"

FINALLY, WHAT'S YOUR KERRISTMAS WISH THIS YEAR?

"My Christmas wish would be for 2017 to be *significantly* better than 2016. Because I think we all need that. We all need a really good, positive and inspiring year."

Accidentally putting a sprout on Laura's Kerristmas dinner plate was a day-ruiner

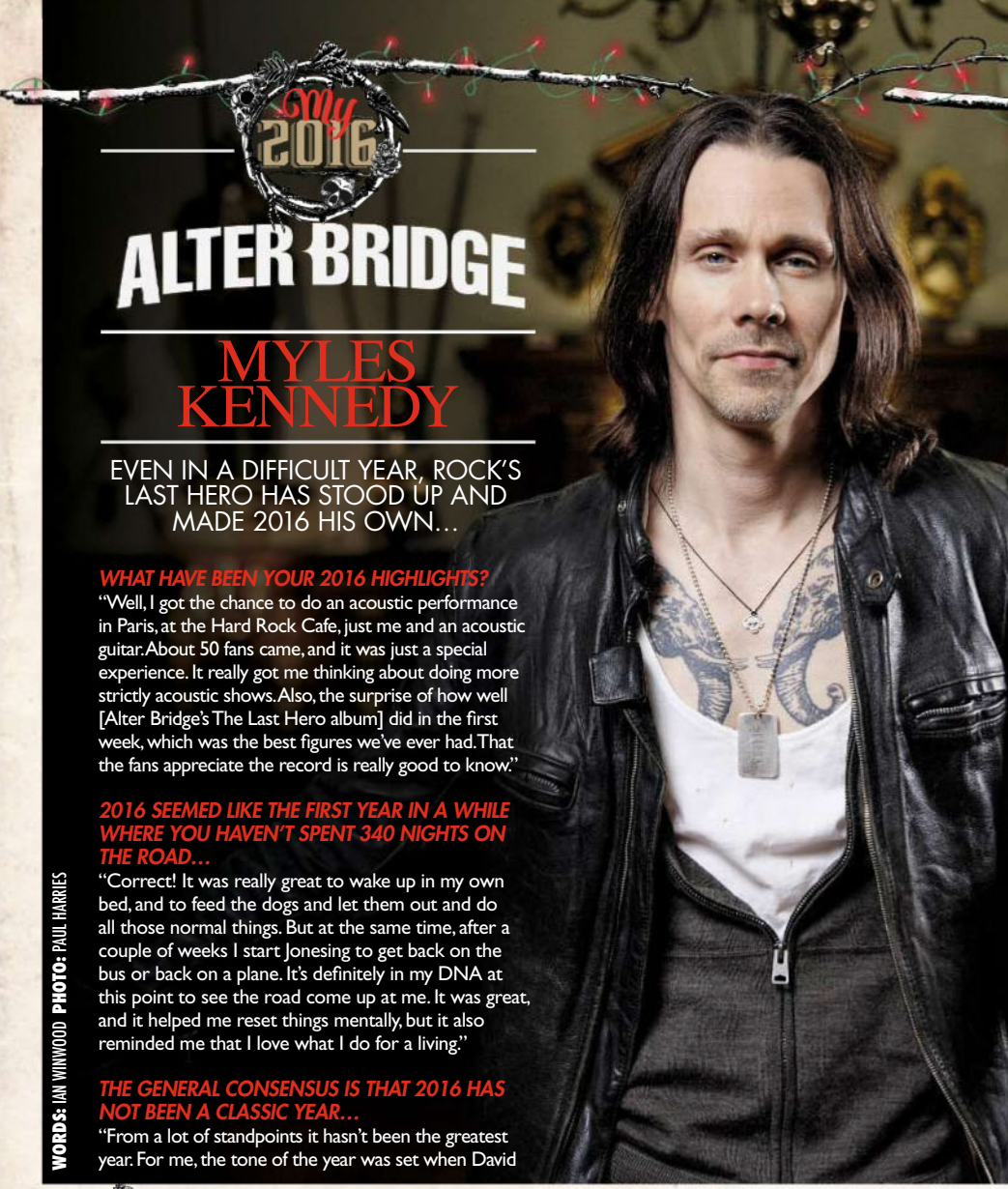
WORDS: JENNYFER J. WALKER **PHOTO:** LINDSEY BYRNES

My 2016

ALTER BRIDGE

MYLES KENNEDY

EVEN IN A DIFFICULT YEAR, ROCK'S LAST HERO HAS STOOD UP AND MADE 2016 HIS OWN...



WORDS: IAN WINWOOD **PHOTO:** PAUL HARRIES

WHAT HAVE BEEN YOUR 2016 HIGHLIGHTS?

"Well, I got the chance to do an acoustic performance in Paris, at the Hard Rock Cafe, just me and an acoustic guitar. About 50 fans came, and it was just a special experience. It really got me thinking about doing more strictly acoustic shows. Also, the surprise of how well [Alter Bridge's The Last Hero album] did in the first week, which was the best figures we've ever had. That the fans appreciate the record is really good to know."

2016 SEEMED LIKE THE FIRST YEAR IN A WHILE WHERE YOU HAVEN'T SPENT 340 NIGHTS ON THE ROAD...

"Correct! It was really great to wake up in my own bed, and to feed the dogs and let them out and do all those normal things. But at the same time, after a couple of weeks I start Jonesing to get back on the bus or back on a plane. It's definitely in my DNA at this point to see the road come up at me. It was great, and it helped me reset things mentally, but it also reminded me that I love what I do for a living."

THE GENERAL CONSENSUS IS THAT 2016 HAS NOT BEEN A CLASSIC YEAR...

"From a lot of standpoints it hasn't been the greatest year. For me, the tone of the year was set when David Bowie died, and from that point on it hasn't gotten any better. It's been a tough one. 2016 was also the year my mother-in-law died, which of course affected my wife, myself and my family, so that wasn't easy."

ARE YOU LOOKING FORWARD TO KERRISTMAS?

"Well, Thanksgiving is really the holiday that I enjoy the most. I'm always up for Thanksgiving. That's one thing I always miss when I'm on the road, being home for the big turkey dinner. But Christmas is cool. It's fun to see my little nephews get their presents, and to see them all gakked up on sugar. So that's entertaining. The thing that I don't like so much is how commercial it is and how much pressure everyone's under to buy the right presents. That part of it has become a little frustrating. I think we've all been hoodwinked to an extent there. Christmas should be about being with loved ones."

WOULD YOU WALK US THROUGH KERRISTMAS DAY IN THE KENNEDY HOUSEHOLD, PLEASE?

"We'll get up and let out Siggy, our eldest dog, who we named after Sigmund Freud; he's a Shih Tzu. And now we also have another Shih Tzu, who we've called Mozart, so he'll go out, too. After that, and I know this sounds pathetic, but the dogs will get their Christmas treats, which of course they love. Then we'll give our presents to one another. After that, the mayhem ensues. We tend to flip-flop between my wife's family and my family, so either we'll go to my parents first and then to her folks for the evening, or maybe we'll do it the other way around. It is a lot of fun, but by the end of the day we both feel like we've done a full day's work!"

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE FOR KERRISTMAS?

"I'd like to get the perfect neck pillow for flying, for when I'm stuck on a 30-hour flight. I haven't found that yet, so maybe someone can get me the mac daddy of flying pillows that will make all the hours I spend aboard a steel tube just that bit easier."

WHAT HAS 2016 TAUGHT YOU?

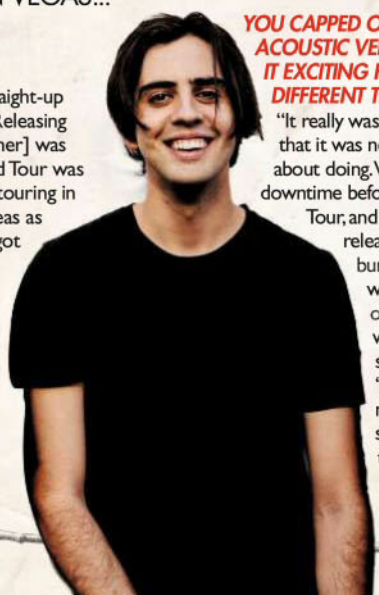
"It has taught me that the world is still a wacky place. And it's taught me that there's no absolutes, that is for certain."

My 2016

WITH CONFIDENCE

JAYDEN SEELEY

JUST WHEN YOU THINK 2016 HAS NO SURPRISES LEFT, **JAYDEN** REVEALS WHAT HAPPENED IN VEGAS...



WORDS: DAN SLESSOR

WAS YOUR 2016 MORE KILLER THAN FILLER?

"Experience-wise, I'd say it was straight-up killer the whole God damn year! Releasing our first-ever album [Better Weather] was a 'holy shit' moment, doing Warped Tour was another high, as was international touring in general. We had never been overseas as a band before, and in one run we got to go to Japan, the UK, the States and the Philippines, and that was just crazy."

WHAT WAS YOUR ULTIMATE ROCKSTAR MOMENT?

"Easy! Toward the end of Warped Tour we were in Las Vegas, and I had the weirdest, most messy night of my life. I was drinking and partying with some of the State Champs boys, and we were at a bar and ran into Coolio – the dude who did Gangsta's Paradise! We were with a bunch of girls and he started talking to them, and one of them said, 'Let's go to my hotel room, we've got heaps of booze to drink,' and Coolio was *so* fucking coolio, because he said, 'That won't be enough alcohol, let's go to *my* suite!' So at maybe 4am we went up there, partied the night away and ended up breaking into a casino pool. When I was going to sleep at around 7am I was lying there thinking, 'This is it, *this* is what being a rockstar feels like (*laughs*)!'"

YOU CAPPED OFF 2016 BY RELEASING AN ACOUSTIC VERSION OF VOLDEMORT. WAS IT EXCITING FOR YOU TO TRY SOMETHING DIFFERENT THIS YEAR?

"It really was, and what made it cooler is that it was not something we had thought about doing. We were in LA and had some downtime before we started out on Warped Tour, and we had a party for the album release and played acoustically for a bunch of industry people. While we were practicing someone from our label heard us and said, 'I love what you're doing with that!' and straight after the party he said, 'We're recording that – people need to hear it.' We were totally stoked on the reception it got, too, and we're so glad things fell into place for that to happen."

WHAT WAS THE CRAZIEST PLACE YOU VISITED?

"Probably the Philippines, because it was such a big culture shock. It's a really interesting place, a lot of people are in poverty and right next to this they have skyscrapers and a lot of people who are very well off, so there's some real extremes. Seeing the way of life, how these people get by day to day, was really eye-opening, and everyone we met was super-nice. It definitely tripped me out that we got to go to this strange place to play our music, but I was thrilled that we got to visit for that reason."

DID YOU MAKE ANY EPIC FAILS?

"Well, the problem with that Coolio story is that the next day we had to play a show! Our set was at 1pm – I'd gone to bed at around 7am and got woken up at 11am, still drunk, but by the time the set came around all the goodness that comes from being drunk had completely gone. I feel so bad for the people who watched that set, because while playing Keeper I literally forgot how to play bass! I forgot the lyrics, too, and was basically a bumbling mess, and then about two minutes after that I fell over! It was definitely the worst set I've ever played, and I'm sure everyone there would agree with me on that one, and I just hope they've forgiven me (*laughs*)!"

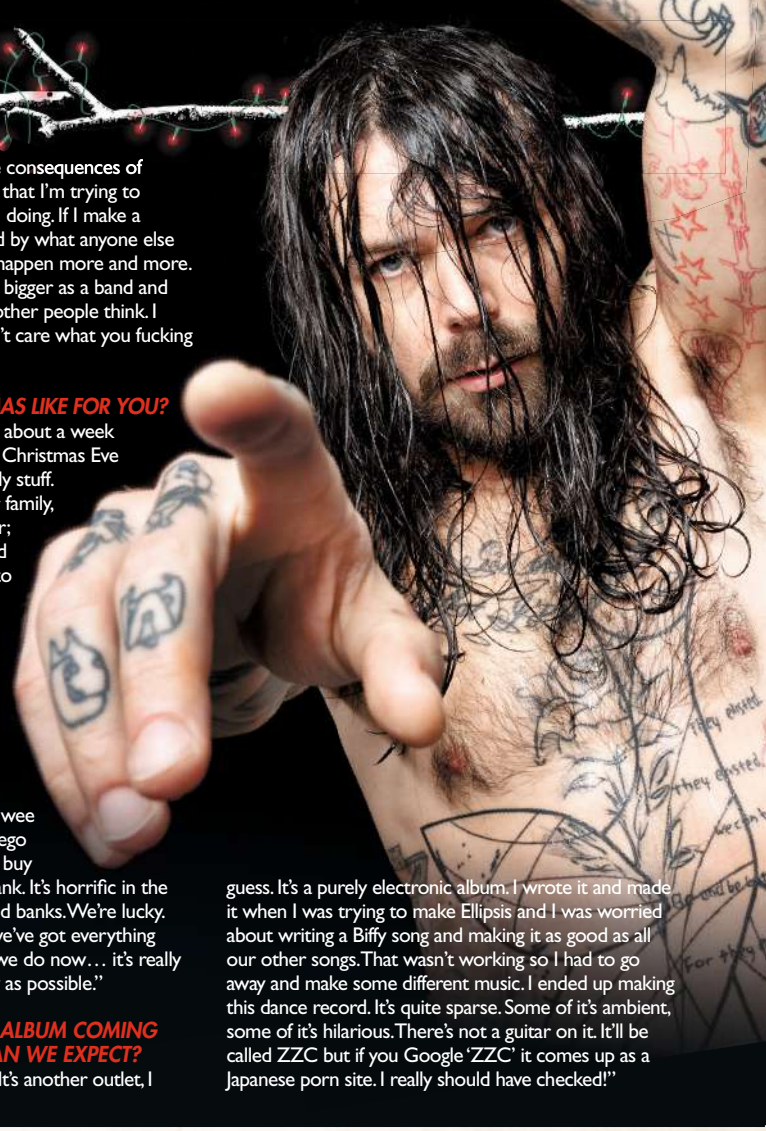
WHAT WAS YOUR ALBUM OF THE YEAR?

"Without a doubt it's Chemical Miracle by Trophy Eyes. Sometimes bands take a completely unexpected left turn, and they wrote this incredibly mature and groundbreaking album. I've probably played it at least once a day since it came out!"

BIFFY CLYRO

SIMON NEIL

SIMON'S NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION? ALWAYS CHECK BEFORE YOU NAME ANYTHING…



WORDS: MATT ALLEN **PHOTO:** PAUL HARRIES

WHAT'S YOUR PROUDEST MOMENT OF 2016?

"It shouldn't matter, but Ellipsis going in at the top of the charts in this day and age when rock music isn't as widely respected as it once was. I felt really proud. Charts shouldn't matter, but it's nice when you see it sitting up there with a lot of pop shite. I'm proud of the record. And [our shows at] Reading & Leeds. When you're a band for 15 years it can be hard to have those moments. We think it's important to celebrate them and embrace them, but we don't like to dwell on them."

WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNT ABOUT YOURSELF?

"I'm always trying to learn how to chill out and not be precious about shit, and that comes with age. If anyone was critical of our music previously it could send me into a head spin. I still struggle to not read reviews. There's something in me that says, 'Oh, I'll see what they think…' If they think it's great, I go, 'Well, yeah…' I don't believe it. But if somebody says something negative I go, 'Oh God! Why did they say that?!'"

HOW ARE YOU DOING IT?

"There's a quote that [Manchester United manager] José Mourinho has on the inside of his watch and it says, 'I'm not afraid of the consequences of my decisions.' That's something that I'm trying to remember. I believe in what I'm doing. If I make a decision, it shouldn't be affected by what anyone else thinks. I'm trying to make that happen more and more. It's funny how you can become bigger as a band and then you start worrying what other people think. I want to retain a sense of, 'I don't care what you fucking think because this is for us.'"

WHAT'S A USUAL KERRISTMAS LIKE FOR YOU?

"I normally close the doors for about a week and don't see anyone! Then on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day we do family stuff. Francesca, my wife, has a bigger family, so I see my dad and my brother; we'll go see Frankie's nieces and nephews. Normally there's 48 to 72 hours that's pure family."

IS IT A BOOZY DO?

"I try not to drink too much, which in Scotland is pretty hard to do because there are a lot of midday beers. I shouldn't stitch my dad up, but he destroyed me a couple of weeks ago. He's insatiable. So a wee bit of drinking, and then we forego presents to each other and we buy food and donate it to a food bank. It's horrific in the 21st century that there are food banks. We're lucky. We spend our time together, we've got everything we need, but that's something we do now… it's really important to bring as much joy as possible."

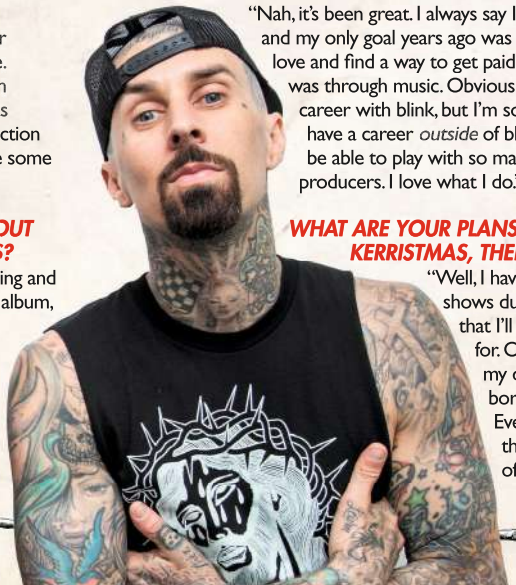
YOU HAVE A DEBUT SOLO ALBUM COMING OUT NEXT YEAR. WHAT CAN WE EXPECT?

"Yeah. I'm reticent to say 'solo'. It's another outlet, I guess. It's a purely electronic album. I wrote it and made it when I was trying to make Ellipsis and I was worried about writing a Biffy song and making it as good as all our other songs. That wasn't working so I had to go away and make some different music. I ended up making this dance record. It's quite sparse. Some of it's ambient, some of it's hilarious. There's not a guitar on it. It'll be called ZZC but if you Google 'ZZC' it comes up as a Japanese porn site. I really should have checked!"

BLINK -182

TRAVIS BARKER

IN THE YEAR THAT **BLINK** GOT BACK ON TRACK, **TRAVIS** REMAINS JUST AS THANKFUL AS EVER…



WORDS: JENNYFER J. WALKER

WHAT ARE SOME HIGHLIGHTS FROM THIS YEAR FOR YOU, TRAVIS?

"Obviously our album [California] coming out was a highlight, and our summer tour was pretty awesome. Playing with [rapper] Vic Mensa [on U.S. show Jimmy Kimmel Live!] was awesome; playing on the eve of election day was pretty cool, too. Those are some of my favourite times of this year."

WHAT WAS IT LIKE PUTTING OUT AN ALBUM AFTER FIVE YEARS?

"When you've worked on something and feel like you've made an incredible album, there's that time before it *actually* comes out where you have to do a lot of press, and people ask you a lot about it, and you're like, 'I just want you to hear it!' You're just anxious for everyone to hear it in the best way."

DID YOU HAVE ANY WORRIES GOING INTO IT?

"I wasn't really worried; it was weird. The writing process always felt great from the time Matt [Skiba] came into the band. And from the *day* we got into the studio, I just knew it was gonna be amazing. We wrote Bored To Death and two other songs in the first *day* we were in there. For so long, because the stars weren't aligned or whatever, blink weren't able to record or tour, and there were so many restrictions on our band. Once Matt came in it was so easy, and writing the album was so easy. Everyone asks, 'Was it hard?' or 'How did you guys do this?' And it's like, 'No it wasn't hard, and no, it wasn't difficult!' Once Matt got in the band everyone wanted to be in the studio, and everyone wanted to tour; it actually came very easy."

HAVE THERE BEEN ANY LOWS THIS YEAR?

"Nah, it's been great. I always say I'm so blessed, and my only goal years ago was to do what I love and find a way to get paid for it, which was through music. Obviously I love my career with blink, but I'm so fortunate to have a career *outside* of blink, too, and to be able to play with so many artists and producers. I love what I do."

WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR KERRISTMAS, THEN?

"Well, I have a couple of shows during Christmas that I'll be rehearsing for. Other than that, my daughter was born on Christmas Eve, and we have this hill in front of our house, and I always bring fake snow out and we go [play in the] snow. We've done it since she was a baby. Hallowe'en and Christmas are *big* in our family!"

WHAT DO YOU WANT SANTA TO BRING YOU THIS YEAR?

"I love artwork, so I would take lots of Raymond Pettibon paintings – he did all the Black Flag artwork and the heart on the Foo Fighters album [One By One]. So I would take anything by him, Banksy, Damien Hirst and Pushead. I have a car fetish, so there's a million cars I'd want. The biggest Christmas present would probably be the largest drum room ever – I would want it like 30,000 square feet, with *one* massive drum kit! Oh, and to be teleported, if I could teleport my family and I everywhere, so I could tour in every country known to man. I would go to Japan immediately. I love Japan."

WHAT HAS 2016 TAUGHT YOU?

"I haven't really learned anything new, as far as life lessons. It's just been a great year, but nothing really new or groundbreaking. My life got a lot more consistent years ago when I stopped doing drugs, so it's pretty much smooth sailing. Best year of my life? Every year becomes the best year of my life. Last year I would have said it was the best year of my life, and the year before that I would have said it was the best year of my life. I always feel that about whatever [moment] I'm presently in, and I say the same thing to my kids. I'm like, 'Ugh, I don't want you guys to grow up, I love *right now*, and I wanna freeze time and keep you the way you are right now.' And my daughter always says to me, 'Dad, you said that last year – you always say that!' So you think it's the best year of your life until the next year happens. I feel like every year I learn more as far as being a musician, being a drummer and being a dad. I feel like every year there's growth, and that's exciting to me."

My 2016

IRON MAIDEN

STEVE HARRIS

IT'S SAFE TO SAY THAT IF WE'RE IN FOR A WHITE KERRISTMAS, **STEVE** WILL BE STAYING FIRMLY INDOORS…

Steve: still making excellent use of the West Ham scarf and wristband set he got for Kerristmas yonks ago

"THIS YEAR HAS BEEN A BIT OF A BLUR…"
STEVE HARRIS

SO, STEVE, TELL US ABOUT YOUR 2016…
"It's been a bit of a blur, in a way, if I look back on it. Iron Maiden have just done a six-month tour and been to so many different places. It's been absolutely fantastic with Bruce [Dickinson] flying the plane, and everything else – the whole thing's unbelievable. It just makes me want more – I'm greedy like that."

DO ANY MOMENTS OF 2016 STAND OUT IN PARTICULAR?
"Obviously, when the bloody [Ed Force One] engine got slaughtered [in Chile, in March], that was bad news… and that happened on my birthday as well. That was a bit of a birthday present. But our team just rose to the task in a different country, and we were on time for the next gig! That was the most obvious one, because it was such a spanner to be thrown in the works at that time. It's quite devastating, really, when you get that thrown at you, but an amazing bunch of guys came out and fixed it all, and not so many days later we're back on it again."

GIVEN THAT BRUCE'S ILLNESS PREVENTED IT AT FIRST, IT MUST HAVE BEEN SPECIAL TO HAVE FINALLY TAKEN THE BOOK OF SOULS OUT ON TOUR?
"It's special going out on a Maiden tour anyway – it always is – but when you go through that and you basically get the rug taken out from under you, and you don't know what's in the future, it's extra special for everybody."

A LOT OF UK FANS' ONLY CHANCE TO SEE MAIDEN IN 2016 WAS DOWNLOAD. HOW DID YOU ENJOY THAT EXPERIENCE?
"From a personal point of view, I didn't think it was one of our better performances. Sometimes it's just like that. But then, sometimes you have a thing like that and everyone thinks it's great. It's a different perspective when people are out front. I thought we were good, but I didn't think we were *great*. It was an acceptable performance, but then 'acceptable' to me isn't good enough. That's why I'm glad we're doing a UK tour [in 2017]; I feel we still have something to prove."

FOR THE RECORD, DOWNLOAD WAS ABSOLUTELY BRILLIANT. AND THE RAIN WENT AWAY DURING YOUR SET…
"Well, that's great. We've been lucky with things like that. There have been situations in the past where it's pissing it down all day, then it stops raining when we go on."

AHEAD OF ITS RELEASE, YOU SAID THE BOOK OF SOULS WOULD BE A LOT TO DIGEST. NOW YOU'VE LIVED WITH IT AND TOURED IT, HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THE RECORD?
"If I'm honest, I was a little surprised by how well it was accepted. I thought we might get a bit of flak because it was too long, or this or that. Obviously, I'm really pleased that the reaction was so good. I didn't expect that, I thought we would get a bit of grief with it here and there – you know, you can't please everybody. But in general, it seemed to me that it was received amazingly well. I expected more flak than that, but fantastic, I'll take that all day long. The reaction we got was incredible."

FINALLY, ARE THERE ANY GOALS YOU WANT TO ACHIEVE NEXT YEAR OUTSIDE OF MUSIC?
"Well, the last time I tried something I'd wanted to try for years, I injured my knee. That was skiing. Two or three years ago I thought, 'The kids are skiing around me and I'm just taking photos'. So I thought, 'Sod it! I'm going to have a go!' I really enjoyed it for the first few days, until I did my cruciate ligaments in my left knee. It took me 18 months before I could play football again. I thought, 'I ain't doing that again,' because 18 months without football wasn't worth it. These aspirations outside of my comfort zone probably aren't a good idea. I'm not jumping out of a plane or anything like that."

WORDS: GEORGE GARNER **PHOTOS:** PAUL HARRIES

My 2016

YOU ME AT SIX

JOSH FRANCESCHI

NEW HOUSE, MARRIAGE PLANS – AND A NEW ALBUM TO BOOT, TOO. IF **JOSH** THOUGHT 2016 WAS BUSY, 2017 WILL BE A WHOLE NEW LEVEL…

"WHEN YOU COMMIT YOUR LIFE TO SOMEONE, EVERYTHING CHANGES"

JOSH FRANCESCHI

Josh anxiously fretted over whether someone had bought him the new FIFA for Kerristmas

HOW AND WHERE DID YOU WELCOME IN 2016, JOSH?

"My fiancée and I had some friends over to our house – we'd recently bought a place together in London – and then we all went out to a bar in Clapton for the New Year countdown. We maybe should have stayed where we were, because for the second year in a row I was stuck at the bar waiting to buy a drink when they actually did the countdown! But it was the perfect way to celebrate our first home together."

AT THAT POINT, DID YOU HAVE THE WHOLE OF YOUR UPCOMING YEAR MAPPED OUT?

"Strangely, no, not at all. We took some time away from the band to re-focus because it's been pretty non-stop for over a decade, so when January came around we still didn't have any plan of when we were going to be making our next record or who might produce it. But after we spoke to our producer Jacquire King [Kings Of Leon/City And Colour] in early February, we jumped on a plane to Nashville literally three days later, and 2016 really started there and then."

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE MEMORY OF 2016?

"Proposing to my girlfriend. I've been madly in love with her for many years, and we were going on our first holiday outside Europe for a long time, to Mexico. It was, if not the best 10 days of my whole life, as that's quite strong, then certainly in the top three experiences ever. It feels like the start of a whole new chapter in my life. When you decide that you're committing to someone for life, the way you think about everything changes slightly. I've found my perfect team-mate; it's been amazing."

WAS THERE A LOW POINT?

"When my grandmother fell ill and went into hospital. I've experienced bereavement from the sidelines, seeing how it's affected people I love, but thankfully I haven't yet lost someone who's had a massive impact upon my life on a family level, and so this was the first time in my life that I was petrified about what might happen. I was the first one to go to see her in hospital, and it was difficult. Thankfully she's better now, and we'll be celebrating her 90th birthday in January, but that was a particularly tough time."

DID THE BREXIT REFERENDUM IMPACT UPON YOUR YEAR?

"It really did. Living in East London, around areas that celebrate and embrace a multicultural society, I found Brexit quite difficult and concerning. I don't want to get into the pros and cons of Brexit, and I know London voted to remain, but there was definitely a vibe in London in the days and weeks afterwards where it felt like people were on edge and frustrated. After the U.S. election, too, I just sat with my fiancée almost in silence and disbelief. At one point she said, 'Man, the world could really do with a John Lennon right now to remind people of the basics of looking out for one another,' and ultimately that's what led us to cover Imagine at [our] Maida Vale [session] for Radio 1 recently."

WHAT IS YOUR ALBUM OF 2016?

"It's not a very Kerrang! record, but it would be Views by Drake. And also Konnichiwa by Skepta. For guitar music, the Biffy Clyro album [Ellipsis] is a great record!"

DID YOU DISCOVER A FAVOURITE NEW BAND?

"I really like that band The Hunna. They have a cool energy about them. We met them at Reading festival, and in a way, I saw a lot of early You Me At Six in them – mainly in terms of their enthusiasm for what they're doing. Hopefully we might get to take them out on tour. Creeper are great, too."

WHAT'S THE BEST GIFT THAT YOU RECEIVED THIS YEAR?

"Hmmm, well, it wasn't a gift as such, but my dad has a friend who's a producer for a TV channel in France, and they were looking to do something with someone with a Corsican blood line, and long story short, they ended up making a TV documentary about me, our family and my band. As part of that, I got to go to Arsenal's training ground and interview [Arsenal manager] Arsène Wenger with my Dad, which was an amazing opportunity, so I see that as my favourite gift of the year!"

WORDS: PAUL BRANNIGAN **PHOTO:** ANDY FORD

My 2016

RAY TORO

HE FINALLY RELEASED AN ALBUM IN 2016 – BUT IT WAS A FORMER BANDMATE THAT BLEW **RAY** AWAY...

WORDS: DAN SLESSOR **PHOTO:** LISA JOHNSON

YOUR 2016: 'HELL YEAH' OR 'FUCK NO'?

"Definitely more 'hell yeah'! It's been super exciting getting my record [Remember The Laughter] out after putting so much work into it. I spent probably the first half of the year focusing on it, getting the final mixing and mastering done, and after that there was a lot of work around the set up for the release, so it really has been a huge thing in my life. I've actually been quite happy to take a break from writing and thinking about making new music, and it's been fun getting ready to tour the record. I did it all at home by myself, so recently I've gotten to play with other musicians for the first time in ages, and I've been having such a good time with that!"

HOW DID IT FEEL WHEN REMEMBER THE LAUGHTER RECEIVED A GLOWING RECEPTION?

"Oh, just incredible, way better than I could have ever expected. Before it came out I was kind of worrying about how different it sounds, compared to what people might expect going by my previous work, and the greatest thing for me has been the amount of people saying that yeah, it's an unexpected sound, but they really love what I'm doing."

WITH IT BEING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BLACK PARADE, WAS IT A NOSTALGIC YEAR?

"It was, yeah. Any time an anniversary like that rolls around you start thinking about where you were when you made it, what else was going on in your life, and certainly the camaraderie you were feeling with these other people. It also gives you the opportunity to take a step back and look at things with a different perspective. Obviously at the time we were making it we had no idea what would really happen, but even after the success it had I don't think any of us really understood the impact it had on people until now."

WHAT WAS THE BEST SHOW YOU ATTENDED?

"I didn't go to many, but the best was seeing Frank [Iero] with my family when he played in LA. Each time I see him live, there's just so much growth in how he plays and sings, and his songwriting just gets better and better. It's awesome to watch – he was born to make the music he makes, and it's a cool thing to see."

WHICH CELEBRITY DEATH MOST AFFECTED YOU?

"It would have to be Gene Wilder. To me, he really represented childhood innocence, as Willy Wonka, certainly, but in other roles, too, such as the movies he made with Mel Brooks. He brought this really human level to his comedy, and I love how he spent his life wanting to make people happy. This year has been full of so much political strife and the 'me versus them' attitude, and when I heard that he had died I felt like we had lost a really good human spirit. I think the world could do with a lot more people like him."

WHOSE ALBUM BLEW YOUR MIND?

"Honestly, I gotta go with Frank again! Parachutes is an amazing record – I feel like he took everything that he learned from [side-project] Leathermouth and the experience of making [debut album] .Stomachaches., and, like I said before, the elevation in his songwriting craft jumps out at you. I like that he's focused so much on singing, too; my favourite parts of the record are where everything has been broken down and you can really hear his voice. I'd actually love to hear him make a record that's just him and his guitar."

WHAT MOST MADE YOU LAUGH?

"It's gotta be my son! At four, he's already developing this great sense of humour, which has been a really magical thing. The stuff that comes out of his mouth blows us away. He's operating on a whole different level of logic, and he loves to put smiles on people's faces. And when it comes to perfectly-timed farts, he has it down!"

My 2016

FOZZY

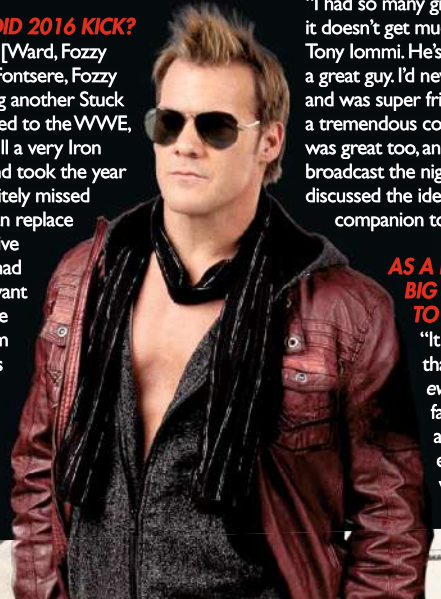
CHRIS JERICHO

CHRIS DID HIS ASS-KICKING IN THE RING RATHER THAN ON THE STAGE – AND TOLD A FEW FIBS, TOO...

WORDS: DAN SLESSOR

HOW MUCH ASS DID 2016 KICK?

"Plenty. Because Rich [Ward, Fozzy guitarist] and Frank [Fontsere, Fozzy drummer] were doing another Stuck Mojo record, I returned to the WWE, and we decided to pull a very Iron Maiden-style move and took the year off from Fozzy. I definitely missed the band – nothing can replace the feeling of playing live with them – but I've had a great time. I kinda want to be the David Bowie of wrestling, where I'm always changing things up. Reinventing my character has made this one of the most fun years I've had in WWE."



AND HOW MUCH FUN WAS IT DELIBERATELY SPREADING DISINFORMATION ABOUT AVENGED SEVENFOLD'S 'SECRET' ALBUM?

"It was really cool. The guys were on my Talk Is Jericho podcast, and they were scared it would leak, and I told them that my wrestling experience had taught me a few tricks, including the old bait and switch, where you make people think one thing and then surprise them from another direction. We came up with the idea of me posting a meme and then taking it down as if I'd fucked up, and it worked so well that even magazines were reporting my bullshit Voltaic Oceans title!"

WHO WAS THE BEST GUEST YOU HAD ON TALK IS JERICHO?

"I had so many great ones it's hard to say, though I think it doesn't get much better than [Black Sabbath guitarist] Tony Iommi. He's not just an absolute legend but also a great guy. I'd never met him before and he came in and was super friendly and super happy, and we had a tremendous conversation. Having Alice Cooper on was great too, and the Avenged Sevenfold one that we broadcast the night The Stage came out where they discussed the ideas behind the record made for a great companion to it, and I loved that one."

AS A LIFELONG METALLICA FAN, HOW BIG A DEAL WAS THE NEW RECORD TO YOU?

"It was a *huge* deal. It's become so rare that they put a record out that it's an *event*, and I think all of us as heavy metal fans worship the ground they walk on, and after such a wait there is so much excitement. There are only three bands whose records I'll still buy as physical copies: Fozzy, Iron Maiden and Metallica, and I certainly got Hardwired...To Self-Destruct on vinyl. I think that they came out swinging with this crazy three-minute thrash song built to crush heads reminded everyone who the fuck they were dealing with, it made us hunger more for the record, and it really didn't disappoint."

YOU HAVE A NEW BOOK OUT IN 2017 – DID YOU SPEND A LOT OF TIME WORKING ON IT?

"I did, yeah. Writing a book isn't easy, it takes a long time and there's a lot of rewrites involved, and this one is quite a different style for me, in that it's kind of a self-help and 'how to achieve your dreams' thing. Having set Fozzy aside for the year also made doing that much easier. There's no shortcut when it comes to writing a book, and that I could do that and have such a good time in WWE really does clear the path for Fozzy to come back so big and so hard in 2017."

WHAT REALLY MADE YOU LAUGH?

"The TV show Vice Principals with Danny McBride. He's such a fucking asshole in every character he plays, and he nails that awkward 'I can't believe he's doing this' kind of comedy. I loved the David Brent film, too, for the same reasons, but then having grown up in Canada British humour has always resonated with me!"

WHO WAS 2016'S BIGGEST ASSCLOWN?

"I don't really think about things like that, but I think maybe the biggest assclowns were the protestors after Trump was elected. It doesn't matter if I'm a Trump guy or not, what they did was to basically protest democracy itself. There have been presidents I like and ones I don't like, but that's what living in America is. To riot and destroy the property of others because you don't like the result makes no sense to me."

KERRANG!

SHOTS OF 2016

TWENTY ONE PILOTS

BY BRAD HEATON

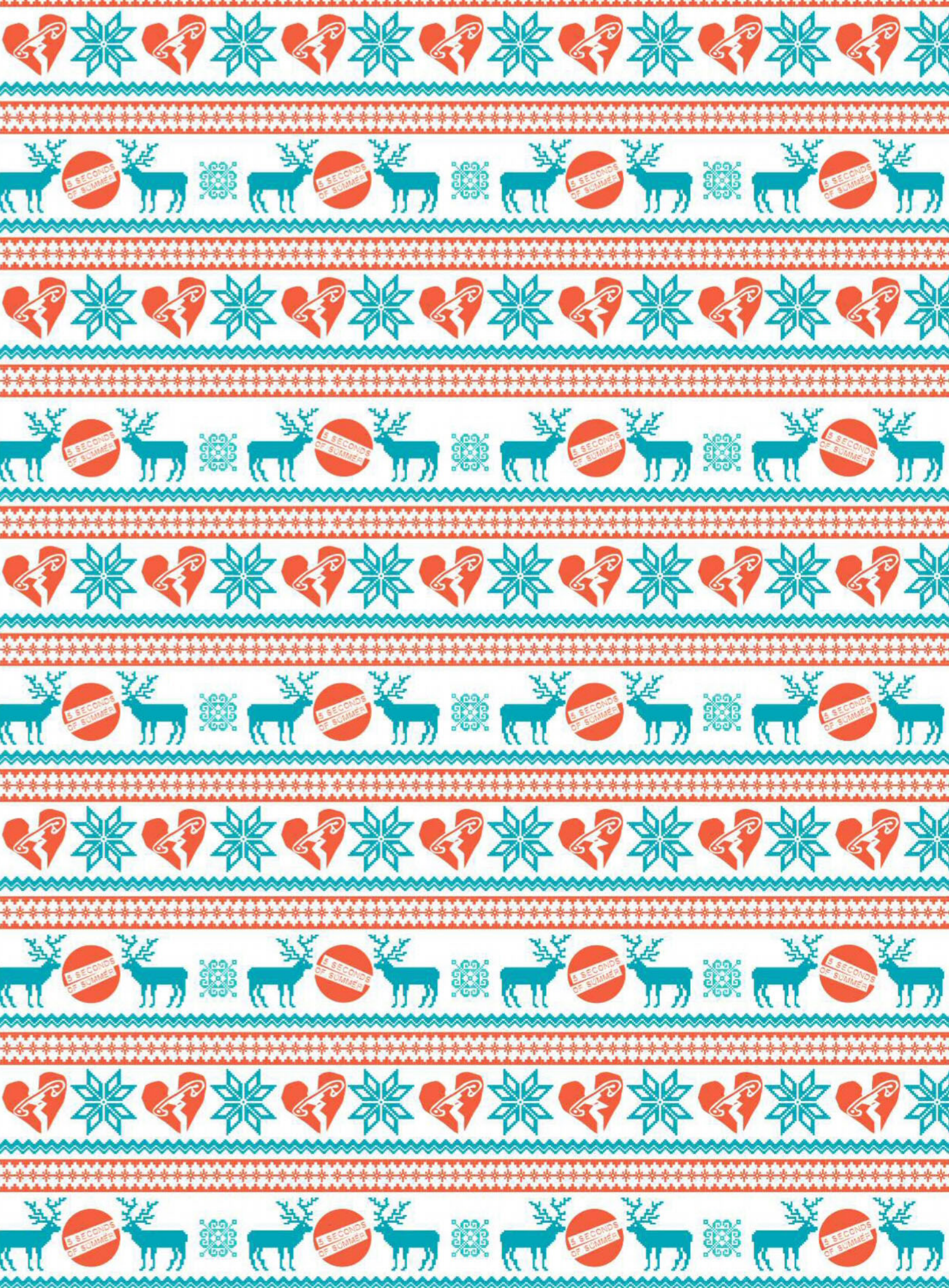
KERRANG!
SHOTS
OF
2016
FRANK IERO
BY ANDY FORD

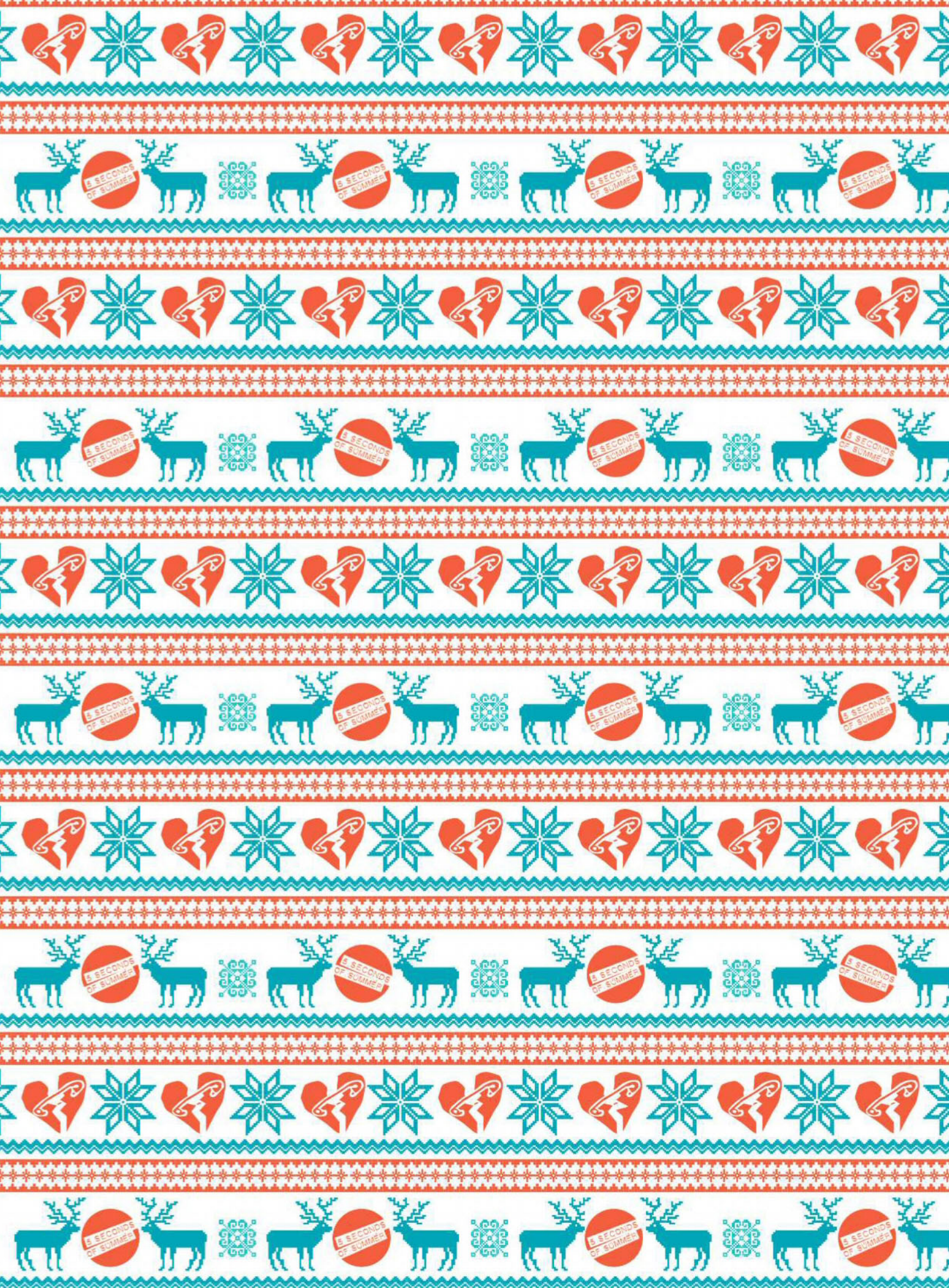
KERRANG!

SHOTS OF 2016

OF MICE & MEN

BY SAM SHAPIRO


5 SECONDS OF SUMMER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KERRANG!

SHOTS OF 2016

GUNS N' ROSES

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MY CHEMICAL ROMANCE: THE BLACK PARADE AT 10

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O CHRIST

GREEN DAY'S, ER, COOLEST MEMBER HAS EARNED SOME DOWNTIME AFTER A HECTIC 2016. BUT FIRST, HE'S GOT SOME PRESENT SHOPPING TO DO. AND THINGS MIGHT GET WEIRD...

If you're a fully signed-up member of the Idiot Nation, 2016 has been the year that's kept on giving. As Green Day celebrated their 30th year as a band, we've had many more reasons than that to pogo around with joy – not least the band's return to live action, the small matter of their finest album in over a decade, Revolution Radio, and the promise of a 2017 that's filled with arena shows and festival appearances aplenty.

For Green Day drummer Tré Cool, though, the gifts don't end there. Kerristmas, after all, is a time for giving. But, charged by Kerrang! with a mission (and minimal budget – we're not made of money, y'know) to buy presents for his rockstar friends, family, pets, and assorted 2016-headline makers, what would Tré fill their stockings with?

Welcome, then, to Tré Cool's absurdist Kerristmas.

BILLIE JOE ARMSTRONG *(THE MAN UP-FRONT)*

"I'd get Billie a chrome megaphone with a mother-of-pearl handle. I think he'd like that. I think that's the only thing he hasn't got. With that he could amplify his already loud singing voice. Let's face it: everyone needs a megaphone, and so a really fancy megaphone would be good. All the megaphones you see are standard-issue ones, like the police use, which are plastic. So it'd be nice to get him a fancy one. I'm sure that he'd like that."

SARA COOL *(TRÉ'S WIFE)*

"For Sara... I'd buy her a fluffy cat. It would have to be one of those flat-faced cats that always looks really grumpy, though. I think that they're cool. But I am a little bit allergic to cats, plus I think they can be a little bit sniffy, you know? They're a little bit superior to it all."

RINGO STARR *(TRÉ'S DRUMMING HERO)*

"I would probably buy him a Super Bowl ring [awarded yearly to the players of NFL-champion teams] – probably one of the [Oakland] Raiders Super Bowl rings. That would go really well with his collection of rings. Ringo's the most tasteful player ever. He's a songwriter's player. He never overplays, and that's what I try to do. I try to be a songwriter's drummer. I serve the song. But anyone who says that Ringo isn't a good drummer is wrong, dead wrong. I've played with him and if he wasn't a great drummer, I would know."

DAVE DICTOR *(TRÉ'S PUNK-ROCK PAL & SINGER WITH MILLIONS OF DEAD COPS)*

"I'd buy him clean sheets. When I used to play in [Tré's first band] The Lookouts I used to stay in his room at the [communal punk hangout] Rat House, and he never changed his bed sheets. I actually saw Dave at a local bakery recently. He's a cool guy."

WORDS: IAN WINWOOD PHOTO: ALEX LAKE

GREEN DAY

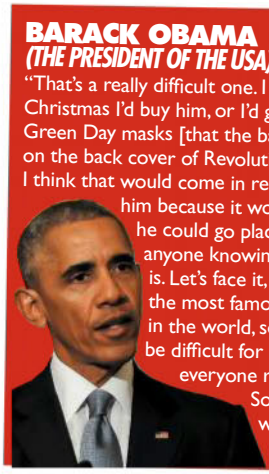
TRÉ-MAS

BEYONCÉ
(LEMONADE-LOVING 2016 MEGASTAR)

"I'd probably buy her a fetish-bondage starter kit. Actually, I've changed my mind about what I want to give Beyoncé. I think Beyoncé could use a La-Z-Boy chair, because she looks like she needs to relax. She could sit on that, take the weight off and just relax and take a nap. I think that would be good for her."

BARACK OBAMA
(THE PRESIDENT OF THE USA)

"That's a really difficult one. I think for Christmas I'd buy him, or I'd give him, the Green Day masks [that the band wear on the back cover of Revolution Radio]. I think that would come in really handy for him because it would mean he could go places without anyone knowing who he is. Let's face it, he's one of the most famous people in the world, so it's gonna be difficult for him to go out without everyone recognising who he is. So I think the masks would actually be a big help to him."



BRODY THE DOG
(TRÉ'S INSTAGRAM-FAMOUS POOCH)

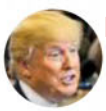
"I have three dogs, and I'd probably buy my dogs the same thing as my wife, which would be a cat. Then they could play with it. My dogs love cats. They're cool with cats because they're not species-ist!"

FRANKITO AND RAMONA
(THE COOL KIDS)

"For my son, I'd buy him a punk-rock record collection – and by that, I mean a full collection of all the classics. And for my daughter I'd buy a six-month Euro rail pass. Actually, given the election, let me change that answer: I'd buy her a Euro rail pass that lasts for four years!"

MIKE DIRNT
(TRÉ'S OTHER RHYTHM HALF)

"Mike Dirnt could probably use a WWI biplane, with a sky-writing kit so that he could write things in the sky. Mike can't fly a plane… Actually, I don't know if he can fly a plane or not. Put it this way: I've never actually seen him do it. But maybe he can; maybe he's had lessons. Maybe he learned off the internet. You can learn anything off the internet these days; you just have to YouTube that shit!"



DONALD TRUMP
(MASSIVE BOZO)

"Oh, ha ha. I don't think I want to buy Donald Trump anything for Christmas. Perhaps I'd give him a lump of coal. Yeah, let's go with that – a lump of coal for Donald."

GREEN DAY TOUR THE UK NEXT YEAR – SEE THE GIG GUIDE

"MAYBE MIKE DIRNT HAS LEARNED TO FLY A PLANE OFF YOUTUBE…"
TRÉ COOL

HAVE YOURSELF A CREEPY LITTLE KERRISTMAS...

KERRISTMAS DAY IN THE CREEPER HOUSEHOLD ISN'T YOUR USUAL EXPLOSION OF RED AND GREEN... BUT THEN, CREEPER AREN'T A USUAL BAND. AND AS 2017 COMES ABOUT, STRANGER THINGS ARE EXPECTED IN ABUNDANCE...

Kerristmas has come early for Creeper – quite literally. They might be as much of a slightly twisted family as a band, but the individual members, having spent almost the entire year in close proximity, will be taking a break from each other over the festive period. Luckily, Kerrang! is on hand to provide them with a slightly early and suitably colour-coded Creeper Kerristmas Day.

"It's perfect!" grins frontman Will Gould. "Purple tinsel, purple tree, listening to The Pogues because we're punks and Fairytale Of New York is the best Christmas song ever. There's no meat involved – just a Tofurky dinner with lots of vegetables."

And what about gifts?

"We've not actually got any today, but if we do we usually give presents that are small but thoughtful," Will reasons. "I got Ian [Miles, guitar] a lighter for his birthday this year that says 'Bad For Good' because Ian loves fire and Bad For Good is the name of a Jim Steinman record that we're all constantly inspired by."

Will says that the best Kerristmas present he ever got was when his girlfriend bought him a subscription to the MUFON Journal. That's the magazine of investigative body the Mutual UFO Network, if you didn't know, which probably tells you quite a bit about the singer.

So where will he be spending his actual, non-band Kerristmas?

"I'll be spending it at my dad's house but before that, right until the day before Christmas Eve, I'll be at Disney World in Florida with my girlfriend. I'm a massive Walt Disney fan and we're going to Mickey's Very Merry Christmas Party at Disney. We're hoping to see Mickey and Minnie in their Santa suits."

That's not very goth or indeed horror-punk, to be honest. Bang goes our image of the singer sitting alone under a pall of gloom and holding his very own Black Mass.

"What can I say? I'm a massive fan of Christmas and I will be uncharacteristically merry!" he laughs.

"I love the idea of a time of year when you can give back to the people who you love and care about. That's an important message regardless of the at-this-point meaningless religious elements that surround it."

After a huge year for the band, Creeper have a lot to be thankful for this Kerristmas. And, with their debut full-length finally due out in March, there's even more to look forward to.

2016 started on a high note as they released The Stranger EP which, Will says, provided "a turning point and launched us into a whole new level of touring".

Creeper have always been big on taking their songs on the road, but this year has been busy, even for them. As well as their own headliners, they've hit the circuit several times with the likes of Neck Deep, Andy Black and, most recently, Pierce The Veil. In May they also played at Funeral For A Friend's farewell gig in London, a show Will says he'll never forget.

"I've always been a massive fan of theirs," he says. "They were a huge band for me and it was an emotional one. I was really teary on the day,

"I'M GOING TO MICKEY'S VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS PARTY AT DISNEY!"

WILL GOULD

everyone there was affected by it. We'd lost a really important band and being the main support on their last ever show is something I'm proud of.

"As for other highlights, the Reading & Leeds shows were major ones for us – just how feverish the crowd was this year," he continues. "We just played Brixton Academy [with Pierce The Veil], which was something we never dreamed we'd be able to do having seen so many of our favourite bands play there over the years. That was a really special moment but we've been afforded so many great opportunities this year that it's hard to single out one as being the best."

There was also the strange case of the missing band, when Creeper staged their own disappearance and introduced a character called James Scythe via a mysterious website. The paranormal investigator feeds into Creeper's gradually unfolding story and a concept that, Will says, will become more apparent with the release of the album, titled Eternity, In Your Arms, next year.

"The two EPs introduced the characters of The Callous Heart and The Stranger and the record ties those together alongside James Scythe," Will explains. "He represents the Captain Hook to the Callous Heart's Lost Boys and The Stranger's crocodile. He's the human element that's stuck between the longing for youth and the fear of death – the Lost Boys who are forever young and the crocodile which represents time ticking away. Those things carry on with this record and they're writing tools we use to tell a story of where we are as people now."

While the disappearance drama unfolded, the singer was actually hiding at home. The whole thing was designed to create a stir, of course, but even its participants were surprised at how it blew up.

"I stocked up on food, and the few times I did have to go into town I went in disguise. Sean [Scott, bass] stayed at Reading Festival and had to leave in disguise the next day so he didn't get photographed," Will laughs.

"It was absolutely crazy and people were investigating the mystery everywhere. We had 22 rooms booked at a hotel for a video shoot. The hotel had so many people come in to ask where James Scythe was that they refused to let us do anything there. They cancelled all the rooms because they didn't want anything to do with us!"

From farewell shows with post-hardcore icons to swamping hotels with mystery hunters, it's been quite a year for Creeper. With the new album looming, 2017 looks like being another cracker, so raise a glass and picture Will Gould, still in his regulation black, posing for a selfie with Mickey Mouse in a Santa outfit. Where Creeper are concerned, far stranger things are almost guaranteed...

ETERNITY, IN YOUR ARMS IS OUT ON MARCH 24 VIA ROADRUNNER. CREEPER TOUR THE UK IN MARCH AND APRIL 2017 – SEE THE GIG GUIDE FOR INFORMATION

WORDS: PAUL TRAVERS PHOTO: PAUL HARRIES

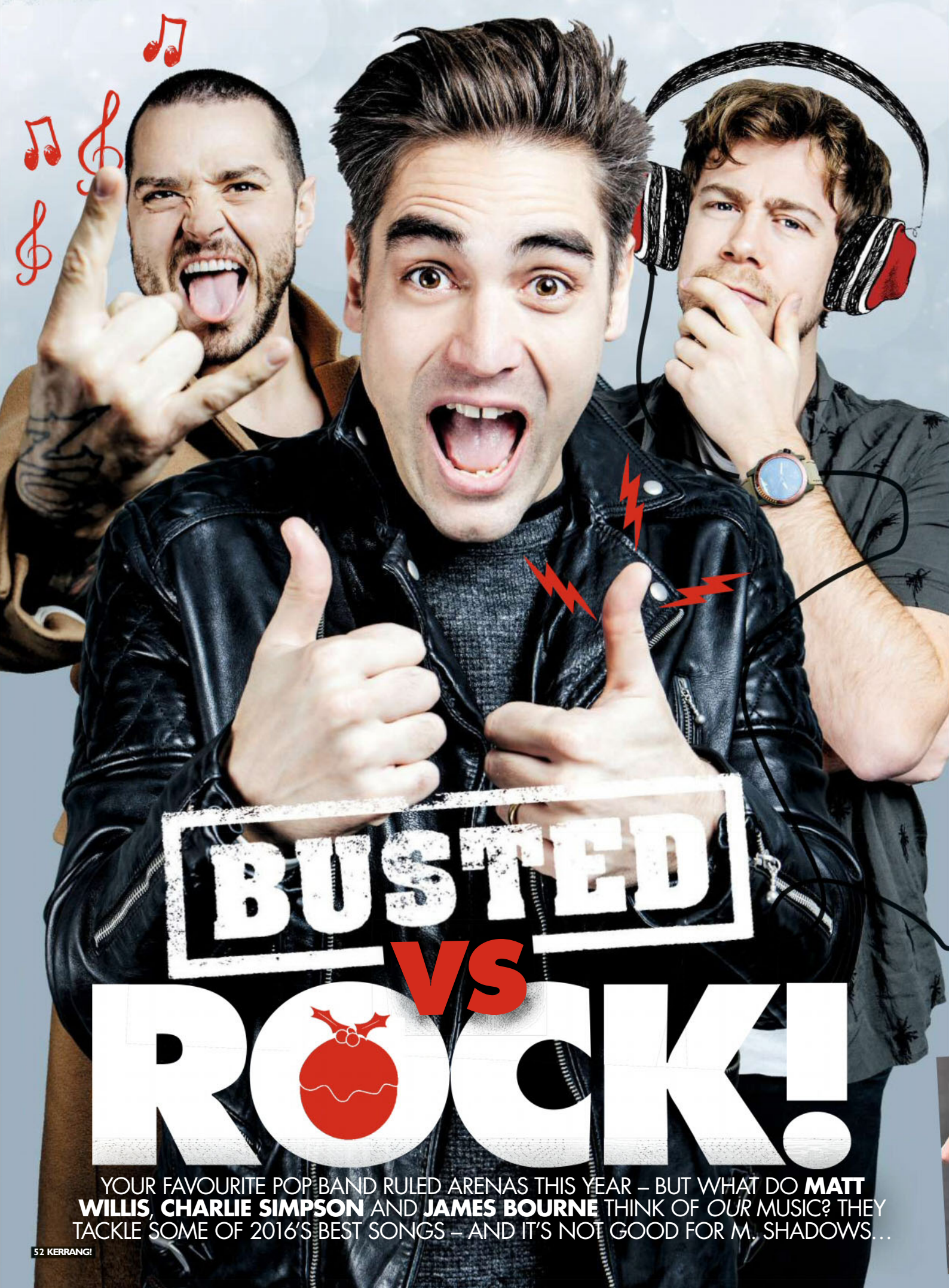
Will Gould: not one for sharing his Kerristmas pressies

KERRISTMAS —WITH A— STRANGER

HE'S A MYSTERIOUS FIGURE LURKING IN THE SHADOWS – BUT EVERYONE DESERVES A KERRISTMAS GIFT, SURELY?

WILL SAYS: "The Stranger is a shadow person, someone that you would secretly see when you're experiencing sleep psychosis, when you're paralysed and you're halfway asleep. He's the thing that keeps you up at night, he's the representation of the things we fear the most. He's always in the background, watching and waiting. He represents time ticking down and he's all the things that we fear. You never know when he's going to come, but everyone experiences meetings with The Stranger over their lives.

"This Christmas, I would give The Stranger a smile, because his smile is upside-down at the moment. I'd turn that frown upside-down. The Stranger would give me nothing but misery in return. He would give me terrifying encounters at night-time. Or something awful, like coal. He's a very Grinch-type character and he doesn't like Christmas at all."



BUSTED VS ROCK!

YOUR FAVOURITE POP BAND RULED ARENAS THIS YEAR – BUT WHAT DO **MATT WILLIS**, **CHARLIE SIMPSON** AND **JAMES BOURNE** THINK OF *OUR* MUSIC? THEY TACKLE SOME OF 2016'S BEST SONGS – AND IT'S NOT GOOD FOR M. SHADOWS…

CELEBS REVIEW THE SINGLES

PANIC! AT THE DISCO – EMPEROR'S NEW CLOTHES

MATT: "I really fucking like this song! You should watch the video – although that might distract you from the song, because it's so good. But Panic! At The Disco, right… It's just [Brendon Urie] now?"
CHARLIE: "It's Panic! At The Brendon."
JAMES: "I've always been a big fan of Panic! – I don't think I've ever heard a song of theirs I've disliked."
CHARLIE: "It's *very* Fall Out Boy, but I like the production elements, and he's got a really good voice. It's got a theatrical element, which I like."

GREEN DAY – REVOLUTION RADIO

MATT: "I didn't like a *single* thing from [2012 trilogy] ¡Uno!, ¡Dos!, ¡Tré! – and I really tried – so I was nervous about this, but I love this record."
CHARLIE: "They've gone back to the Nimrod [1997] days. Dookie [1994] and Insomniac [1995] were huge records in my life, and I don't feel like they've ever beaten that, although American Idiot [2004] had some bangers. It's nice hearing them go back to that sound."
JAMES: "When the melodies are on form, Green Day are unbeatable. Some of those melodies are just on a higher level. They're just effortless songs, and that's what makes them so special – when they get it right."

FRANK IERO – REMEDY

JAMES: "When you've got somebody that's been a part of something as amazing as My Chemical Romance, it's very difficult to say negative stuff, because this is someone that's had an amazing career with an amazing band, and now he's branching off and he's doing music that satisfies him. He wouldn't put that out if he didn't love it, I don't think. So it's a serious passion project for him, but it's not to my taste. But I'm sure he doesn't care what we think about his music!"
CHARLIE: "I agree – I've got nothing negative towards it, but it just doesn't grab me in the way that these other songs do."
MATT: "I'd like to keep quiet (*laughs*)…"

ZACK DE LA ROCHA – DIGGING FOR WINDOWS

MATT: "I had a fucking awesome time in my car this morning listening to this song with the sunroof down, blaring it out!"
CHARLIE: "It makes me want to listen to Rage Against The Machine. It's great. I like the fact he's doing something different, because his vocals actually really suit that. But I love Rage."
MATT: "There's no beef between them, is there? They're just doing their own thing now. I kind of get the impression that Zack just doesn't give a fuck."
CHARLIE: "He must be having a field day – 2016 is like a kid in the candy store, writing about politics."
MATT: "Yeah! He's probably like, 'I need to change my genre because I'm almost a bit too cliché now…'"

Zack: "like a kid in a candy store"

Nails: "like staring at a painting for too long"

NAILS – FRIEND TO ALL

CHARLIE: "This is fucking heavy!"
MATT: "I wasn't that into this – it's not my thing. I was waiting for it to *start*. I was like, 'Any minute now, it's going to start.' And then it ended!"
CHARLIE: "This is all just fast and screaming, and there's no melody. After three songs, I'd kind of get bored by it. But it's got some really cool riffs in there."
JAMES: "You know when you look at a painting and you stare at it for too long and it kind of blurs? I feel like this is my audio equivalent!"

> "A7X IS STEEL PANTHER WITHOUT THE HUMOUR"
> **CHARLIE SIMPSON**

METALLICA – SPIT OUT THE BONE

CHARLIE: "For a start, I'm *so* glad that Lars Ulrich has sorted out his snare drum, because [2003's] St. Anger was just an embarrassment. This sounds like the best Metallica I've heard in a long time. I love them for their riffs, but James Hetfield writes

JAMES: "I actually always wanted Metallica and Michael Jackson to work together. When I listen to this music, I can hear Michael Jackson singing on top of it – I know that sounds crazy! When you talk about mash-ups, that would be top of my list. If it has happened behind closed doors then we need to hear it!"

AVENGED SEVENFOLD – EXIST

MATT: "It's really long [*It's 15mins and 41secs in total – K! Timekeeping Ed*]… I listened to it today and gave up after eight minutes. But I enjoyed all this shit… I thought it was really cool."
CHARLIE: "They're fucking massive, aren't they? I don't *not* like them, but I've just never *got* them. There's a lot of solos and it's widdly and all a bit cocksure for me. It's Steel Panther without the humour."
JAMES: "[The concept] side of them, I love."
MATT: "Yeah, what you're saying [about AI and space] I love, so I'm going to listen to this album!"

ARCHITECTS – GONE WITH THE WIND

CHARLIE: "I did Warped Tour with Architects in 2013, and they're just *such* nice dudes. I took a lot of influence from them when I was writing the last Fightstar record. It's such sad news that Tom [Searle, guitar] passed away."
MATT: "I didn't know anything about Architects, and I listened to this and thought, 'Charlie is going to love this!' There's great screaming and then beautiful singing."
CHARLIE: "That's the thing – it's not heavy for heavy's sake, the heavy makes *sense*."

VODUN – POSSESSION

CHARLIE: "It sounds like Skunk Anansie on acid!"
MATT: "It's like a Jesus Christ Superstar B-side."
CHARLIE: "There's a whole genre of this shit… This is like the pop version of Evanescence or Nightwish, with the theatrical singers."
MATT: "What's Dream Theater['s genre called]? I remember going down a rabbit hole one night on YouTube watching drum videos and going, 'What the fuck is going on here?!'"
CHARLIE: "This genre isn't really my cup of tea, but I like her [Oya's] voice. I tell you who I do think is fucking amazing – Marmozets! I fucking love them – that's a female rock voice [Becca Macintyre] who can nail it."

MESHUGGAH – BORN IN DISSONANCE

JAMES: "I don't know anything about Meshuggah – but this is Charlie's cup of tea!"
CHARLIE: "Brilliant. I love Meshuggah – they wrote the fucking playbook. I remember hearing them first in 2005 and it blew my mind. I know that mathy shit would turn a lot of people off and they wouldn't get it, but it's so hypnotic."
MATT: "The only thing I know is that I've heard the name 'Meshuggah' from Charlie's mouth! In a previous interview he'd mentioned them somewhere, so I know that name."

Meshuggah: "hypnotic mathy shit"

BABYMETAL – KARATE

MATT: "I fucking love this so much. This riff is *fucking* amazing!"
CHARLIE: "Dude, if you like this, you'll like some Meshuggah shit!"
MATT: "My kids listen to this – they love it. I put it on in the car and my son's like, 'Put on the Japanese girls, daddy!' I'm like, 'Alright!' They've got all these routines, haven't they?"
CHARLIE: "I think this is a little sugary metal surprise! Only the Japanese could come up with something as crazy as this, but it's brilliant."
MATT: "I've seen them do this (*holds up Fox God hands*). We need our own little hand sign!"

TWENTY ONE PILOTS – HEATHENS

MATT: "It's my favourite song of the year. In headphones I don't think I've had a better time for a long time!"
JAMES: "I feel like now there's a lot of bands that are pop by nature, but I wouldn't be surprised to see them in K! because there's not these categories any more."
CHARLIE: "It's the playlist generation – you can have a Bring Me The Horizon song next to a completely different genre. I'd certainly have had an easier time 10 years ago if that was the case then (*laughs*)!"

Charlie would take some time to get over his bandmates not knowing Meshuggah

WORDS: EMILY CARTER **PHOTOS:** ANDY FORD, GETTY

WALKING IN A PUNK ROCK WONDERLAND

THE PAST 12 MONTHS HAVE SAVED **FRANK CARTER**'S MUSICAL CAREER. WHAT BETTER WAY TO CELEBRATE THAN AT THE BIGGEST KERRISTMAS FAIR IN TOWN?

What Frank really wants for Kerristmas: to get the hell out of here

MISTLETOE & WHINE

FIVE THINGS WE LEARNED FROM GOING TO WINTER WONDERLAND WITH FRANK CARTER

1 FRANK IS A CRACK-SHOT AT THE RIFLE RANGE

It's no coincidence Frank manages to hit the mark with his first shot at the rifle stall. "I own a rifle and occasionally go to this small-ish range not far from my house." So *that's* why no-one tries to burgle him…

2 …BUT HE'S NOT AS GOOD WITH A BOW AND ARROW

Frank's beginner's luck on the rifle range didn't last, as he struggled to pop any of the balloons on the board in front of him. "That was *impossible*," he moans. "Best stick to guns…"

3 HE'S TAKEN UP BOXING

After eyeing up a couple of Strongman Challenges, Frank reveals how he found a new way to keep up fitness over the course of a draining year. "I started boxing this summer – on tour, I have this cathartic and violent outlet from playing. When I come off, that energy gets contained… Boxing gives me focus."

4 HE DOESN'T LIKE SUB-DEGREE TEMPERATURES

Frank is not impressed with the -10° arctic chill of the Ice Bar, and even less so with the Game Of Thrones-style thermals given to protect us. "Let's get out of here," he grunts, before anyone starts eyeing up the bar menu.

5 HE SPENT LOADS OF MONEY ON A CHIROPRACTOR

Though excited by the prospect of fairground rides and a spot of dodgems, Frank decides against it as he'd recently "blown a wad of cash on a chiropractor" and it's not worth undoing any of the expensive work done. Bah, humbug!

Note to self: Frank doesn't find our rifle range advice helpful

Yeah, of course you can see a Yeti, Frank. Sure, anything you say, Frank…

Frank wasn't smiling when we tried to use him in place of a fairy atop the K! office tree

Kerristmas cheer is aplenty in Hyde Park's Winter Wonderland. The Download of the UK festive circuit, London's most famous Royal park has been transformed into a neon maze of flickering lights, German markets and whirling carousels, all set to the soundtrack of cheery laughter, which is all around.

Well, maybe not *everywhere*.

The faux cheer and kitschy surroundings feel slightly at odds with Frank Carter – somewhat unimpressed by the fading statues, like he's staring into Lapland's graveyard.

"All you need at Christmas is good people and good food," says the Rattlesnakes frontman, "We'll stick on movies – Elf is my jam, and I *always* watch Home Alone. I don't know why, but for me that film's as Christmassy as it gets… if protecting your home from thieves is how you do it.

"I don't think people would try it on round mine, though," he replies, flashing that trademark grin.

A rifle shooting range stall catches the singer's attention. He scans the giant teddy bears to see what's on offer before slipping his finger on the trigger and, with a loud crack, nailing his target.

In many ways, Frank's year could best be summed up in such a moment: one huge, 12-month-long bullseye (minus the soft-toy prize). Even by Frank's own admission, it's been a largely unprecedented crusade back to the heights achieved in his former band, Gallows, before his exit from the band in 2011.

2016, then, will be remembered as the year Frank turned his life round.

"We started it with the Kerrang! Tour in February," nods the frontman. "We went in *super*-hard to make a point and I got tonsillitis – in Brighton I handed out the mic while I threw up during Juggernaut! But we carried on touring. Now, a year on, our shows are selling out as early as four months back, which is mental."

Ask Frank what memories have defined his 2016, and the answer comes quickly: touring. "My poor wife, bless her, is all like, 'Who are you again?'" jokes a husband, father and frontman that has lived considerably more of the past 12 months in dressing rooms than his living room, clocking up over 70 shows while also finding the time to ready a new album, Modern Ruin, out this January. It's been a move led by necessity, and fuelled by Frank's desire not to let his hard-fought second shot slip away.

"This is my career – I have to do that," he reasons. "For all the managers and PRs, there's other bands out there. If this collapses, they can move on and still get paid. This is my life, my dream…"

He looks up from the ground.

"I had it before and it all fell apart," continues Frank. "It's been difficult to get here… *really* difficult. You get tiny windows [of opportunity]. And I'm doing everything to get there, but not to the detriment of being a good father and husband. That's the hardest part to get right."

"THE MOVIE ELF IS MY JAM"
FRANK CARTER

After a spot of archery and ducking our heads inside the wintery Ice Bar, we retreat to an indoor tent blaring out a playlist of all the very worst Christmas hits. While Frank isn't in the mood for mulled wine on this occasion, he reveals he almost certainly will be having "a glass of *something*" over the holidays. You could say he's earned it, after all.

"I'm not straight-edge anymore," he shrugs. "That's almost how Modern Ruin was born – relationships, but not always in the literal sense. I took on alcohol in a big way and *ran* with it, flying naked through the streets screaming. Then I realised I was awful and had to sort it out. On [lead single] Snake Eyes, I'm talking about finding yourself on the floor, knowing it was *you* that put yourself there. I was sober for 12 years but I have a better relationship with it now."

In fact, it was a Christmas Day in New York not long ago when the frontman decided he was finally in control of that relationship he speaks of. While in a Japanese restaurant with his wife, Frank knocked back shots of Saké without a moment's pause.

"There was no, 'You *sure* you wanna do this right now?'" he laughs. "I guess I just felt ready and wanted to have a nice night."

That sense of control extends to the band he now fronts. There's no major record label telling him what artwork is acceptable for release, or bandmates to battle over musical direction ("As much as I sit here and slag my younger self off, it wasn't *all* my doing"). Few are lucky enough to get this many chances…

"Third time's a charm, my friend," chuckles Frank. "This is my shot, and I ain't gonna fuck it up. *We* make the decisions. I used to battle the suits when I was an arrogant kid. But the person suffering was actually me, the band and our fans…"

He trails off for a second.

"Now I'm a different person. I've got the humility that comes when you've lost something you care about. 'Fuck everyone' felt like the honourable way, but life doesn't work like that. I shut a lot of doors for Gallows. There were parallels in my behaviour to what goes on in the news – I was bombing people I cared about and when they came for help, I turned them away. So I'm making amends. This time, I've got it sussed."

Hearing it from the man himself – with the final words of East 17 hit Stay Another Day finally driving us out of Winter Wonderland – you just can't help but believe him.

MODERN RUIN IS OUT ON JANUARY 27 VIA INTERNATIONAL DEATH CULT/KOBALT. FRANK CARTER & THE RATTLESNAKES TOUR THE UK IN MARCH 2017 – SEE THE GIG GUIDE

WORDS: AMIT SHARMA **PHOTOS:** ANDY FORD

READER TAKE OVER!

No, Jaime. Not today. Maybe tomorrow (definitely not tomorrow, either)

SANTA For A DAY

PIERCE THE VEIL HAVE JOINED FORCES WITH FANS TO SPREAD SOME FESTIVE CHEER FOR A VERY GOOD CAUSE. IT IS, THEY TELL JAMES HICKIE, THE PERFECT WAY TO CAP OFF A YEAR IN WHICH *YOU* HAVE BEEN MORE IMPORTANT TO THEM THAN EVER…

Oliver, who at seven years old thinks he might be Pierce The Veil's youngest fan, is pulling a Kerristmas cracker with his hero Vic Fuentes and introducing him to the tradition of the bad joke contained within.

"What's furry and minty?"

"I don't know – what *is* furry and minty?" answers Vic.

"A Polo bear!"

"That's pretty good!" is Vic's verdict.

"That's the best joke *I've* heard all day!" adds his drummer brother, Mike.

Today Oliver is joined by 10 other fans that have been granted early access to the Manchester Academy – where tonight Pierce The Veil play the latest instalment of their Misadventures tour – for a special audience with the band. Inside, the venue's bar has been transformed into a festive grotto, complete with tinsel and daft headwear, as these fans join forces with their favourite band to donate gifts to Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH), the UK's largest paediatric centre, to help give children a treat at a tough time.

"It's always nice to take these kinds of opportunities when we can," says Vic as he shakes hands with everyone and thanks them for the generous offerings of toys, sweets and computer games.

"It's good for us to remind those kids that we have their backs," adds Mike. "The fans are like a family to us, so it's great to show that we're all in it together."

Bassist Jaime Preciado, who seems particularly keen on the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles nunchucks set that's been brought along for donation, wastes no time getting into the spirit, donning a jumper emblazoned with the words 'Jingle My Bells', much to the room's enjoyment. Guitarist Tony Perry, meanwhile, coolly accessorises his baseball cap with a Santa hat, as band and fans come together for a signing and selfie session – making this, as Oliver tells his mum, "The greatest day of [my] life."

"That kid, and everyone who came to see us, really made my day," enthuses Vic later on, as he and his bandmates relax in their dressing room and look back upon an eventful 2016. "I was having a really rough morning, dealing with some vocal troubles, and they turned my mood around instantly; they were really the ones bringing the good vibes to *us*."

Novelty jumpers: fine. Novelty facial hair: a touchy subject

We'd heard beards were 'in' at the moment, but this was frankly ridiculous

Vic never did quite get the idea of this particular kind of cracker

And, as the band reveals, that's not the first time this year that Pierce The Veil's fans have aided their fortunes.

The road to this year's Misadventures, Pierce The Veil's fourth album, was one Vic describes as being littered with "ups and downs" but, he says, "having the support of the fans got us through it."

"The thought that we'd someday be onstage playing these new songs in front of crazy, screaming crowds really motivated us to finalise the album," recalls Vic. "The tweets and Instagram comments asking when it was coming out were a constant reminder of the connection we have with our fans."

It's an admiration that elevated Pierce The Veil to dizzying heights this year. To celebrate their new album's release in May, for example, the band played a show in Mexico City's 20,000-capacity Palacio de los Deportes venue; while the following month they appeared on Conan O'Brien's late-night talk show, which receives somewhere in the region of 500,000 viewers per episode ("A dream for all of us," beams Jaime). Meanwhile, in October, previous album Collide With The Sky went Gold (recognising sales in advance of half a million copies). Most recently, as part of this tour, the band has fulfilled their ambition of playing London's O2 Academy Brixton – a feat Jaime admits to fantasising about.

"When we were making the track Texas Is Forever, I dreamed of playing it in the biggest room we could possibly find, and filling it with the biggest circle pit," he continues. "To see that dream come to life at the Brixton show *blew my mind*."

"When you dig down so deep into something, it can get a bit dark," recalls Vic of the process of making Misadventures. "So seeing people's reactions has been the light at the end of the tunnel for us," he adds, highlighting their show in Paris in October, where fans sang along to Circles, PTV's song about the city's terrorist attacks, as "particularly special".

"It's *all* because of the fans," says Mike.

And, given what the band has coming up next, it would appear that 2016 is the gift that keeps on giving. After a day off followed by two shows in Dublin and one in Belfast, the band will return to the U.S. for their final dates of the year – an exciting prospect not just because the run climaxes in their native San Diego, but because they're supporting the city's other famous sons, blink-182.

"It's *crazy* for us because we grew up listening to them," says Mike, who seems to be angling for a special Kerristmas gift. "If you're reading this, Mark [Hoppus], we *are* available for a tour…"

Aside from further shows with your heroes, then, what are you guys hoping for from the holiday season?

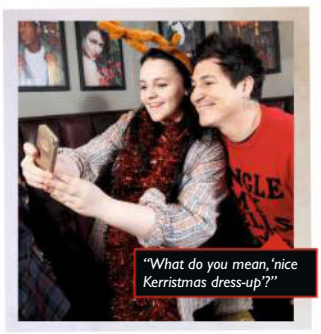
"I'll sleep for a week and then I'll be back to wanting to be on tour!" says Jaime. Vic laughs in recognition. Despite admitting to a continued appetite to tour in order to "create whole new worlds and see the songs in different lights", he admits to having a more immediate hunger he needs to satisfy.

"I'm heading straight to my favourite Mexican shop, Santana's, for a burrito," he reveals with audible excitement. "Maybe even two!"

Well, it is Kerristmas, after all…

Mike: available for FaceTime calls to your nan at any time

Vic never left the venue without his handy tour elf


"What do you mean, 'nice Kerristmas dress-up'?"

A TIME FOR GIVING

VIC EXPLAINS WHY IT'S IMPORTANT TO GIVE A LITTLE SOMETHING BACK

"We thought this could be a good opportunity to team up with some of our fans during our UK tour to do something meaningful for Christmas. We've been working with Kerrang! to identify a special organisation that we could reach out to. We chose Great Ormond Street Hospital because we thought it would be awesome to provide gifts for kids that are in the hospital at what should be a special time of year – to give them a treat and some normality at a point when they may be experiencing tough times. We're therefore very thankful that the band has been able to join forces with some kind and generous people to provide gifts for the kids at GOSH, which does such incredible work."

SEE HOW YOU TOO CAN HELP MAKE SOMEONE'S KERRISTMAS A LITTLE BIT BRIGHTER BY VISITING GOSH.ORG

Great Ormond Street Hospital Charity

PHOTOS: PAUL HARRIES

NUMBER

THIS KERRISTMAS, WE'LL ALL BE STUFFING GRUB. AND WHETHER YOUR TASTES MEAT-FREE FEAST, TWO OF POP-PUNK'S THROUGH MAKING THE MOST OF THE

TRADITIONAL KERRISTMAS DINNER

BEN BARLOW, NECK DEEP

"My family's had a roast dinner nearly every Sunday my whole life, but Christmas dinner really is the *ultimate* roast. It's everything you love about a roast, plus all the fancy extras.

"When it comes to cooking the turkey, you want to keep it simple: a bit of salt and pepper, maybe some butter, and that's it. You're not looking for some Jamie Oliver-inspired crazy infusion of flavours – you just want it to be well-cooked and nice and moist. I'm definitely more of a leg man, and usually don't have to fight for one, but for me the main attraction of the meal is the pigs in blankets! As far as I'm concerned, when it comes to selecting the sausages you're going to wrap in bacon, you don't have to be *too* picky, just as long as it's not hot dog sausages.

"In my mum's Christmas dinner – which is pretty unbeatable, by the way – it's in the sides that it really bounds ahead of the regular Sunday roast. You'll have your peas, but this time you have ham and onion cooked with them. Then there's your cabbage, but we'll have that mixed in with bacon and carbonara sauce, and rather than doing the roast potatoes in the oven we'll do them in the deep-fat fryer, which takes them to the next level. As well as that we'll have carrots with some special seasoning, Yorkshire puddings and roast parsnips, and I like sprouts a lot, which perhaps makes me a bit weird.

"We never skimp when it comes to stuffing, and it's always made from scratch with some little bits of bacon in, which really brings it to life. It's definitely best cooked *outside* the turkey in its own pan, though, because when you've put all that effort into it you don't want that to then have flavours of the meat in it – you want it to stand on its own. When it comes to gravy, I'm pretty easy whether it's the thick or thin kind, but what we do is pour it in the tray that the meat was cooked in, so you're getting those flavours in there, and we'll mix some white wine in there, too. For me, there's no need for cranberry or bread sauce.

"Obviously it's best eaten while wearing the hats that come out of the crackers – but my head's too big and rips them! I'll always come back for seconds, and by the time it's over there's usually two or three of us bloated with turkey and trimmings and completely conked out on the sofa. And very happy about it!"

"PIGS IN BLANKETS ARE THE MAIN ATTRACTION!"

BEN BARLOW, NECK DEEP

Ben loves Kerristmas dinner so much, word is he wants this as the cover art to Neck Deep's next album

WORDS: DAN SLESSOR **PHOTOS:** PAUL HARRIES

OF THE FEAST

OUR FACES AND BELLIES WITH DELICIOUS
ARE FOR A TRADITIONAL TURKEY OR A
BEST FRONTMEN ARE HERE TO GUIDE YOU
ONE DAY WHERE CALORIES DON'T COUNT...

VEGAN KERRISTMAS DINNER

PATTY WALTERS, AS IT IS

"Christmas dinner is about eating a meal around the people you love, whether you're a vegan or not, and for that reason I always look forward to it. I've been vegan for eight years, and I'm the only one in my family, so I have a meal prepared separately to whoever I'm with, but it's still a 'proper' Christmas dinner.

"There's a substitute for everything you'll find on the plate of someone eating the traditional dinner – you just swap in the replacements. There's vegan turkey, vegan ham and vegan duck, so I'll have my vegan turkey, which is usually Tofurky, or Cheatin' does some good stuff, too. I'm never that guy who stands by vegan meat or vegan cheese and proclaims you can't tell the difference, because you can, but taste-wise they get very close. That said, when I was last in Germany I had some vegan duck that was *so* similar to the real thing it actually freaked me out, because it was so much like real meat. You can go big and get very creative when you're preparing it – marinating and spicing up your Tofurky to your taste is always a win, and you can go for the really slow-cooked option, too, which usually comes out nice.

"If you decide you don't want to go for that fake meat option and want to switch it up, you can do great things with courgettes or aubergines, or you can easily make some kind of pie or casserole. Sweet potato casserole is a particularly great option! After that it's all about the vegetables, and for the most part I don't think you have to do anything different to those the non-vegans at the table are eating, but of course you don't want anything cooked in butter, and when it comes to the potatoes you'll cook those in oil and not goose fat.

"One thing my mom does, which I love, is acorn squash. She basically cuts that in half and sprinkles brown sugar all over it. You slow cook it and it gets really soft and sweet, which goes great with everything else. I should also add that I put cranberry sauce on *everything* – I'm not sure if I have the etiquette for eating that down, but it's what works for me!

"Then comes the desserts, you've got your mince pies – you can easily find vegan versions of those – and it's not difficult to get some nice vegan cakes and pies, too. All of this, of course, gets eaten in the midst of crackers going off and silly hats being worn, because it's not the real deal without that!

"Last year, I had four wisdom teeth taken out two days before Christmas, so my dinner was entirely liquid – I could only eat creamed corn and pie filling. It was awful, so I'm going seriously *big* this year to compensate for that!"

"THERE'S A VEGAN SUBSTITUTE FOR EVERYTHING!"

PATTY WALTERS, AS IT IS

Tofurky: tastes better than it looks, trust us

A Rockst 201

With hindsight, that tray should have given us an indication as to how this would go…

16: ar Review

FROM THE HIGHS TO THE LOWS, THE POP CULTURE TO THE POLITICS, 2016 HAS BEEN RATHER BONKERS. LUCKILY, WE'VE A CRACK TEAM OF ROCKERS ON HAND TO HELP US MAKE SENSE OF IT ALL…

ROB DAMIANI
DON BROCO

LANDE HEKT
MUNCIE GIRLS

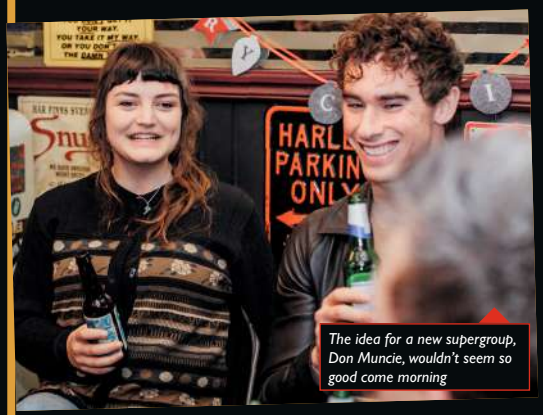
'Tis the season to be jolly, tra-la-la-la, tra-l… Oh, bollocks to this. As the calendar year trudges wearily towards Kerristmas, it is time to reflect on what has befallen us privately and publicly since last time we sang Auld Lang Syne and watched some disappointing fireworks.

Nominate a word to describe 2016 and that word might well be 'shithouse'. But given that this may not be true for everyone, on a chilly afternoon last week Kerrang! convened at Soho's Garlic & Shots – a locus of the London rock scene – for drinks and discussion about this most turbulent of years.

Joining us: Mike Duce from Lower Than Atlantis, Lande Hekt from Muncie Girls, Rob Damiani from Don Broco and Elijah Witt from Cane Hill. On the agenda: music, telly, politics and more. Stoking the fire: raised voices, flailed arms, beers and untold amounts of throat-burning shots (or, for Mike, a few soft drinks).

Lights, camera, conversation…

Um, guys, you know we've got an interview to do… Guys?



The idea for a new supergroup, Don Muncie, wouldn't seem so good come morning

THE YEAR IN MUSIC…

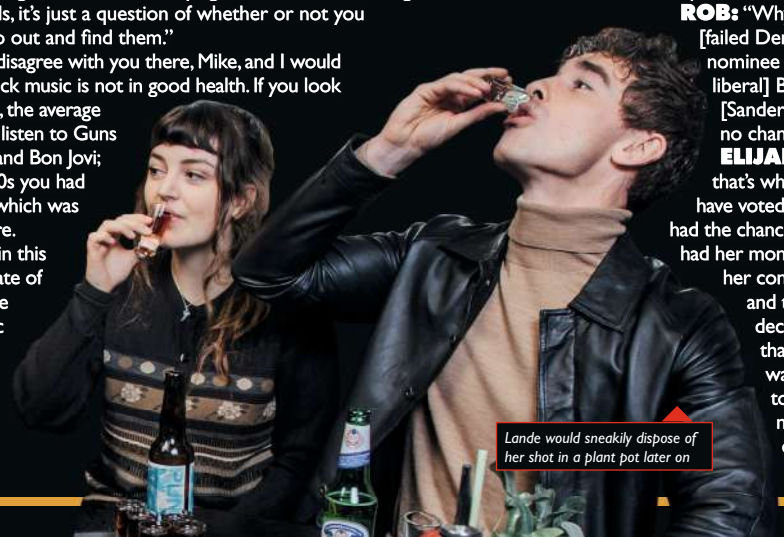
LANDE: "I've heard lots of good music this year. I'd particularly like to nominate a band called Pinegrove, who are so good. They put out an album called Cardinal, which is really great."
MIKE: "I'd nominate Nonstop Feeling by Turnstile. Also a band called Angel Du$t I think are really good."
ROB: "I heard some super-exclusive demos by a band called Lower Than Atlantis. I want you to understand that I'm not saying this simply as a means of bumming Mike…"
MIKE: "You can if you want."
ROB: "But we heard their demos the other day and it was just sick. It was great to hear something so fresh and exciting in rock music."
MIKE: "You're going to make me cry… Can I change mine to Don Broco?"
ELIJAH: "I'm gonna go for Knocked Loose, 'cause they're really good and they gave me a free shirt."
MIKE: "There's been a lot of people recently that have been saying that rock music is dead and so on. And I find that really annoying and a really ignorant thing to say. Rock music will always be alive so long as it's in everyone's faces, and bubbling away underneath in the underground. There's always gonna be a load of good bands, it's just a question of whether or not you want to go out and find them."
ROB: "I disagree with you there, Mike, and I would say that rock music is not in good health. If you look at the '80s, the average Joe would listen to Guns N' Roses and Bon Jovi; in the 1990s you had nu-metal, which was everywhere. But we're in this current state of time where rock music isn't as popular as it used to be. There's still incredible music out there, it's just not in vogue at the moment."
LANDE: "But you don't have to be as big as Beyoncé to make a difference. You can make a difference to just one person."

IN MEMORIAM…

LANDE: "I think in terms of musicians and artists dying, some of them were old. But I think it's symbolic of this shit year we're having."
MIKE: "I don't want to sound like a prick, but of the people who died this year – Prince, say, or David Bowie – I never listened to their music, so I'm not going to pretend that I was affected when they died. I wasn't. I found it so bizarre that my Twitter feed exploded with people going, 'Oh my God, these people have died!'"
ROB: "I think it was different if you *do* love their music, though."
ELIJAH: "I don't understand people who go crazy when someone who they don't know dies. If you like that person's music, well, the music's still there."
MIKE: "That's what I love about making music. However irrelevant it may be, I know that when I die the music will outlive me and will be there forever."
LANDE: "But you feel that you know [an artist] through the music they've made, though."
ROB: "Yeah, and you feel that something has been taken away when they die. I mean, I wasn't as affected as some people, but I get it. And I do feel it as well."

BEDTIME FOR DEMOCRACY…

ELIJAH: "I'm not even gonna fucking go there. I voted for Hillary [Clinton] in the election. There's no way I was gonna vote for a racist, misogynist piece of shit, who likes to get fake tans and won't live full-time in the White House and wants to spend hundreds of million dollars travelling back and forth to Washington, and who has invited his white supremacist friends into the cabinet. As a nice boy with Jewish blood, I'm not gonna have voted for the white supremacist."
ROB: "Why did [failed Democratic nominee and liberal] Bernie [Sanders] have no chance?"
ELIJAH: "Well that's who I would have voted for if I had the chance. Hillary had her money and her connections and they decided that Bernie wasn't going to win. And millennials don't go out and vote because they think that their voice doesn't matter, and that we've been taught since we were young that everything's rigged anyway, so why bother? So they didn't go out and vote. And, do you know what, I think the xenophobia of Brexit probably started the whole thing."
LANDE: "I think that it probably did."
MIKE: "You know what, I'm a musician and this is a music magazine. Two things I don't talk about are politics and religion."
ROB: "Good answer. But with Brexit I voted to remain, although I think that the arguments were very poorly presented. There was very little information. But when I looked at it I thought that I like being part of Europe and so went with that. And as for being in a band, which is obviously something that affects all of us, going to any country outside Europe is a fucking ballache. In Europe, it's a lot less fucking hassle. At least it is for now."
MIKE: "I reckon [Brexit is] gonna really affect a lot of bands, especially lower-level touring bands. Before, you could just about break even on a European support tour; after Brexit, it's going to be much more difficult."
LANDE: "It's gonna be a lot harder for bands at our level, that is for sure."
ROB: "The horrible truth about being a UK band is that the country is too small to really make a living. You have to tour Europe. If you break America, then that's great. But there are a lot of bands that make a decent living from being a European band, and Brexit is going to affect a lot of UK bands."



Lande would sneakily dispose of her shot in a plant pot later on

A CULTURE OF CRUELTY…

MIKE: "I would say that while a lot of racists voted Brexit, not everyone who voted Brexit was a racist."
ROB: "But it did very quickly turn into a racist issue."
ELIJAH: "In the States we've had people painting swastikas in public, on the subway, people shouting

Yeah, we think this is the exact moment those shots hit Rob

Mike's Santa hat wasn't the most traditional

The fiercest debate of the day: whose turn it was to go to the bar next

"NOTHING GOOD HAS COME OUT OF THIS YEAR!"

ELIJAH WITT, CANE HILL

racist abuse, fuckin' [Ku Klux] Klan rallies. It's the rise of the white supremacist."

LANDE: "But we had racist attacks before Brexit and before Trump. I'm not doubting that the numbers have increased, but I'd also say that the media has caught on to this being something to talk about now. But at least people are noticing racism now, and some are condemning it in the way it should be condemned."

ELIJAH: "But they're also talking about registering Muslims [in the U.S.], which is how [things like] the Holocaust started."

LANDE: "But in the UK, one of the reasons for the rise in xenophobia and fear is down to the fact that we've had a Tory government since 2010 and they stripped all our benefits and rights and power – or that's how it feels, anyway – and obviously the working class people got really angry, so I think, 'Fuck the Tories.' And in came Nigel Farage saying, 'So, you've lost your home and people in your family have lost their jobs… here's who to blame.' He blamed immigrants, and some people went for that line."

ROB: "And this is what happens – it's what happens with so many populist movements. It gathers momentum and people think, 'Oh well, we can blame our problems on someone else.' I think it's human nature to want to do that. It's despicable, but that's the gang mentality. I think that's the human condition. We've seen it happen in history over and over again."

SCREEN FOR ME…

MIKE: "For me, the best TV show I've seen in 2016 has got to be Stranger Things."

ELIJAH: "Black Mirror."

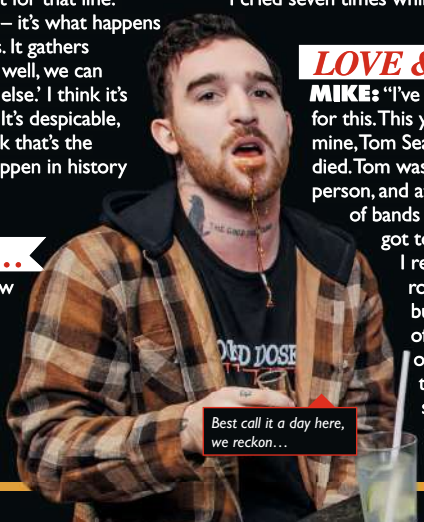
MIKE: "Some of that was filmed in [Mike's hometown] Watford!"

ELIJAH: "It's like a modern-day Twilight Zone. It delves into technology and where it's taking us. There's an episode where people wear contact lenses where they can pause and rewind what they're seeing. And if you go on Facebook you can actually see that people are developing lenses where you can do that."

MIKE: "I like Stranger Things because it was inspired by all the movies that I've grown up with. It's influenced by Spielberg's stuff, it's influenced by Stephen King… I just love the way it's shot. And the soundtrack is great as well."

ROB: "Plus the actors are fucking sick."

LANDE: "I didn't watch Stranger Things because someone told me it was scary and I can't deal with scary stuff. If it's anything like that then I just can't sleep afterwards. But I do like the [Ken Loach] film I, Daniel Blake. It's about an older person who has a heart attack but is judged fit for work by the benefits authority. It's about him and others being denied the benefits that they're entitled to. It's such a moving film. I cried seven times while watching it."



Best call it a day here, we reckon…

LOVE & LAUGHTER…

MIKE: "I've actually got a good story for this. This year a really good friend of mine, Tom Searle [Architects' guitarist], died. Tom was an amazing and talented person, and at his wake there was a load of bands there and of course we all got to talking. For me personally, I realised that all of the UK rock bands in our little bubble – and I've been guilty of this – should stop trying to outdo each other. We're all trying to do the same thing, so we should all be working together to promote what we do, to promote this underground scene. We should all be working together instead of competing with each other. And the way I felt at Tom's wake has lasted, as well, a million per cent."

ELIJAH: "I actually saw [Tom's] last show… I know nothing about the band, but it was the most emotionally fulfilling show I've seen in my whole life. I felt blessed to have seen that musician before he passed away. I actually don't care for live music – I don't go to shows. I don't really care. But that day I went from side-stage to out in the crowd and it was the best show I've ever seen."

LANDE: "I think it's difficult for me to have any perspective on 2016 because it hasn't ended yet…"

ELIJAH: "2016 was the year of the racist and the white supremacist. Nothing good has come out of this year. Jack shit."

MIKE: "Actually, 2016 has been the happiest year of my life. For me personally I've cleaned up my act and I'm just much happier as a person. I'm happier at the end of the year than I was at the start of it."

ELIJAH: "I'm unhappier."

ROB: "For me, there was three or four days of 2016 that really changed my life, and that was when I went on holiday to Lanzarote with Mike…"

MIKE: "Yeah, we went on holiday together!"

ROB: "As a band it's really hard to go on holiday. You can never book anything because you don't know if you're gonna be off on tour. But somehow we made these dates work…"

MIKE: "We booked it a few days before, and quite a lot of us went. And it was so great. Me and Rob did karaoke, too – Mysterious Girl by Peter Andre…"

LANDE: "That's a brilliant song!"

ROB: "I know, right! We dressed up, too…"

MIKE: "We didn't dress up."

ROB: "Is my memory playing tricks on me?"

MIKE: "Yeah. But the point is, that even in 2016 it's possible to have good memories!"

WORDS: IAN WINWOOD **PHOTOS:** ANDY FORD **WITH THANKS TO:** GARLIC & SHOTS – GARLICANDSHOTS.COM

THE MASSIVE KERRANG! KERRIS

THE QUESTIONS!

1 Of what did Brendon Urie celebrate the death this year?
Answer

2 Up to and including Revolution Radio, how many albums have Green Day released?
Answer

3 Who won 2016's K! Award for Best Live Band?
Answer

4 Complete the name of Guns N' Roses' reunion tour: Not In This…
Answer

5 Hardwired… To Self-Destruct was Metallica's first studio album in how many years?
Answer

6 Before this year's Knotfest, how many times had Slipknot performed Skin Ticket live?
Answer

7 All Time Low's Alex Gaskarth and Jack Barakat's podcast is on something of a hiatus, but what's it called?
Answer

8 This year, who released an unplugged live album including Sublime and Goo Goo Dolls covers?
Answer

9 What number is divine, say Pierce The Veil?
Answer

10 A five-year lawsuit against Victory Records was won by which band last month?
Answer

11 Who released The Shadow Side in March?
Answer

12 Aaron Pauley is in which band?
Answer

13 Which Bedford quartet signed to the U.S. label SharpTone Records this year?
Answer

14 My Chemical Romance were living with what on this year's 10th anniversary Black Parade reissue?
Answer

15 Hayley Williams received a K! Award for what this year?
Answer

16 Following their 'disappearance', Creeper returned with a song titled what female name?
Answer

17 Whose 2016 album cover features the band naked in the foetal position?
Answer

18 BABYMETAL achieved enormous things in 2016. But from what mysterious entity do they take their instruction?
Answer

19 How many Ks did Against The Current's album In Our Bones receive?
Answer

20 Fall Out Boy provided the theme tune to which 2016 blockbuster?
Answer

21 Who had their first-ever UK Number One album with a record named after their home state?
Answer

22 Which frontman released a spoof film in which they were replaced by former boyband member Nick Lachey?
Answer

23 Awsten, Geoff and Otto make up which pop-punk three-piece, who've had an amazing 2016?
Answer

BONUS GAME! A SLEIGH TO REMEMBER

SANTA'S STYLED HIS REINDEER LIKE ROCK ICONS – BUT WHICH ONES?

1 Answer
2 Answer
3 Answer
4 Answer

BONUS GAME! WRAPPED ROCK

WHICH BAND'S LOGOS ARE WAITING UNDER THE KERRISTMAS TREE?

1 Answer
2 Answer
3 Answer
4 Answer
5 Answer

QUIZMASTER: MIKE RAMPTON PHOTO: GETTY

24 Who joined Parkway Drive's Winston McCall on A Deathless Song, from the deluxe version of Ire?
Answer

25 Which metal giants are only part way through a 15-month world tour on which their frontman is flying them around?
Answer

26 The Sounds Live Feels Live Tour dominated which band's year?
Answer

27 Whose fanbase is known as the Skeletøn Clique?
Answer

28 Enter Shikari began the year by asking us to contemplate a heaven that had been abandoned. But on what song did they do it?
Answer

29 AOGHAU is an acronym of which 5K-rated 2016 release?
Answer

30 An appearance at Download Festival was part of which legendary band's final tour, set to end in February 2017?
Answer

31 Who did AC/DC draft in to help out with vocals on the Rock Or Bust tour?
Answer

...NG! STMAS QUIZ!

YOU'VE UNWRAPPED YOUR PRESENTS AND EATEN YOUR DINNER. THERE'S NOWT ON TELLY AND NAN'S ASLEEP. BETTER TUCK INTO OUR ANNUAL TRIVIA TEASER! NO GOOGLING!

BONUS GAME!

GOOD KING WENTZESLAS

EVEN AT KERRISTMAS, PETE WENTZ LOVES A GOOD PIZZA. BUT WHICH PATH LEADS PETE TO HIS HOMETOWN FOOD?

BONUS GAME!

WELCOME TO THE JUMBLE

CAN YOU DECIPHER WHAT BANDS ARE PLAYING, BASED ON THESE SIGNS?

1 ENGINEERS LIST WHIPS
Answer

2 STRETCHER ELK TYPES
Answer

3 HEAR RISEN KIT
Answer

4 AREA ROMP
Answer

5 A CHAOTIC STIPEND
Answer

32 Kerristmas classic The Grinch stars the lead singer of which band?
Answer

33 'Ulfsen' is the unused part of which rocker's surname?
Answer

34 What kind of blood signed to Hopeless Records this year?
Answer

35 What airport was celebrated by Twin Atlantic this 2016?
Answer

36 You Me At Six are bringing out their fifth album in January. What's it called?
Answer

37 Fake My Own Death was the first single in five years from which band?
Answer

38 Half of what animal stares out from the front of Beartooth's album Aggressive?
Answer

39 Dani and Davyd Winter-Bates are in which band, who released their fourth album Earthbound in January?
Answer

40 Weezer thanked God for who or what this year?
Answer

Head to Kerrang.com now for all the answers!

LIVES

RATINGS

KKKKK = CLASSIC
KKKK = EXCELLENT
KKK = GOOD
KK = AVERAGE
K = POOR

STAR SHOUT!

JOEL BIRCH

(THE AMITY AFFLICTION, VOCALS)

YOU JUST CAN'T KEEP AWAY FROM THE UK! WHAT DO YOU PUT THAT LOVE DOWN TO?

"Even though we've been coming here for a couple of years, it's just been pleasant from the get-go – whether we were first on or headlining. Having that great support makes this a cool place to come to – oh, and you guys colonised Australia as well…"

YOU MENTIONED THE SITUATION WITH RYAN, AND HOW DIFFICULT BEING IN A TOURING BAND CAN BE FOR YOUR MENTAL HEALTH. HOW DO YOU TRY TO SAFEGUARD YOURSELF ON TOUR?

"I'm lucky that I have a few different creative outlets, so I can just disappear and go painting [street art] or something like that. Just removing yourself from a touring situation can be helpful. If you sit around venues as much as we do, you're bound to get a little bit down. It's therefore important that we get out there and *live*. Have I been doing some painting on the road? Yeah. Can I say where? No!"

Joel's ability to shoot stars from his hands was quite something

WORDS: JAMES HICKIE **PHOTOS:** CHRIS CASEY, ED MASON

THE AMITY AFFLICTION

PLUS: NORTHLANE, STRAY FROM THE PATH, WAGE WAR

ROUNDHOUSE, LONDON. 06.12.16

KKKK

ROCK'S NEXT BIG THING SEAL A TRIUMPHANT YEAR AT LONDON MEGA-SHOW. LOOK OUT, 2017!

WHEN THE mighty CO2 plumes that accompany The Amity Affliction's opener I Bring The Weather With Me blow back the Roundhouse's collective barnet, you truly believe they're summoning the full force of nature. It certainly shakes the foundations of the naysayers that suggested that the album it's from, This Could Be Heartbreak, stuck too close to the clean/heavy musical template and soul-searching themes of previous records. Because tonight, this is a brutal, near-perfect expression of just how emotionally powerful metalcore can be.

You could say the same about openers Wage War, even in their relative infancy. They hail from Ocala, Florida, home of A Day To Remember (in fact, Jeremy McKinnon co-produced early single Blueprints), but this feral five-piece are more than able to thrive under their own bruising banner, and frontman Briton Bond is a *bona fide* star in waiting.

Stray From The Path experienced the year's fieriest baptism last month when they opened for Architects on their most important (and impressive) shows ever. So it's only fitting that 'Techts singer Sam Carter joins the Long Islanders for First World Problem Child. It's the cherry on a set that's headline-grabbing enough without frontman Andrew 'Drew York' Dijorio's denouncements of Ian Watkins and Donald Trump.

Northlane augment their forcefulness with something a little more thoughtful, utilising otherworldly lighting to smash their set out of the park in multi-sensory style. It's almost two years to the day since new singer Marcus Bridge made his UK debut with the band – in this very venue, supporting Parkway Drive – and the Sydney sluggers tonight show just what a raging force they've grown into.

There's a heavy emotion around The Amity Affliction before they've even played a note, thanks to the absence of drummer Ryan Burt, due to "ongoing mental demons", according to singer Joel Birch. And while it's a change that thankfully doesn't affect tonight's stellar set, it's a reminder, if one were needed, how close this Queensland mob sail to rocky shores. This emotional weight positively pours from them through their time onstage as well. Witness the longing in bassist/clean vocalist Ahren Stringer's voice as he sings about '*Searching the sky for a reason*' on Open Letter. Or how about the way Joel gushes "never in my wildest dreams did I think this would happen", before All Fucked Up? Even a man down, Amity are an emotional roller coaster, and as they reach the passionate sing-along for the concluding brawl through This Could Be Heartbreak, it's clear this has been a heartening night for a band who've had their share of heartbreak.

In a year that's seen The Amity Affliction rise and rise, the only question tonight raises is: what next? The arenas they're used to in their homeland? Quite possibly.

FAN SHOUT!
HOW WAS IT FOR YOU?

KIERAN
BASINGSTOKE

"I thought it was really amazing. I've seen Amity play with Northlane before, so I knew they were going to be great, but they both seemed to work so much harder tonight. My highlight was when Amity played Don't Lean On Me. Oh, and I fell over in the pit, which was pretty funny!"

SHANNON
DARTFORD

"It was amazing! I've been a fan of Amity for just over two years, but this is the first time I've seen them live. This Could Be Heartbreak, the title-track of their latest album, is my absolute favourite song, so it was amazing to hear them close with that. I watched all of the support bands as well – Wage War were my favourite of them."

Sam Carter's whip-tricks during his SFTP guest spot needed work

Nobody in Northlane had their phone screens on power-save mode

MUNCIE GIRLS

PLUS: WOAHNOWS, HAPPY ACCIDENTS

UNDERWORLD, LONDON. 30.11.16

KKKK

WHAT A YEAR IT'S BEEN FOR THE EXETER INDIE-PUNKS!

The onstage barbecue was a really off-putting idea

IN A year of political upheavals that have seen mistrust and frustration cloud being excellent to each other, it's easy to lose heart. Fortunately, the UK DIY scene is currently teeming with bands who are kicking up a take-no-shit racket that bursts with positivity. And, tonight, Muncie Girls emphatically knock any dark clouds into oblivion.

Another band that seethe with positive attitude are appropriately-monikered openers Happy Accidents. Even as frontman Rich Mandell addresses social anxieties in punky tunes like Quiet, the band's sheer cartwheeling energy sees him pogoing around his bandmates while dishing out serrated licks. Meanwhile, Plymouth trio Woahnows put the POWER in power-pop, as Mess goes off like a 50 megaton blast of good vibes. Airing mostly new songs tonight, Tropical's floor-stomping rant against sleazy boys in bands is both furious and full of hope for a brighter future.

"This is absolutely mental to be playing our own show here," admits Muncie Girls frontwoman Lande Hekt in chuckling disbelief. But if she and her band are nervous about playing bigger venues on this tour, they don't show it. Drummer Luke Ellis is a clattering whirlwind during Railroad, while Dean McMullen's stuttering guitar stabs throw Everyday into hyperdrive, and any accusations of softness are stopped dead by Nervous, with the David Cameron-baiting line '*You wouldn't look them in the eye / You just left after you took what you needed*' spat out by Lande with particular venom. As the righteous rattle of Respect brings things home, there's no doubt that this is vital punk-rock for uncertain times.

So, when the world is collapsing around your ears, you know what to do. Keep calm, rock on and listen to Muncie Girls.

WORDS: JAMES MACKINNON **PHOTOS:** CHRIS CASEY

Dean McMullen ran out of hair dye at a very inconvenient time

STAR SHOUT!

LANDE HEKT (MUNCIE GIRLS, VOCALS/BASS)

HOW HAS IT BEEN TOURING WITH YOUR MATES?

"It's been amazing! All our friends are in great bands, so we're really lucky, and they've been loving it. I don't think it would be the same touring with people who are down on themselves. But after every show it's a really great atmosphere with those guys. It's a happy tour!"

DO YOU THINK A SOCIALLY-CONSCIOUS DIY SCENE IS NECESSARY FOR THESE TIMES?

"I think it's inevitable that people are writing songs about what bothers them. And in punk-rock you've got to be honest. It's hard not to be angry, but talking to loads of people at shows and playing music makes it a little bit easier."

AVATAR

PLUS: THE LAST BAND

02 ACADEMY ISLINGTON, LONDON. 23.11.16

KKKK

RISING SWEDISH FREAK-METALLERS DO SOME SERIOUS CLOWNING AROUND IN THE CAPITAL

LIKE A set from American Horror Story, Swedish metallers Avatar tonight have the most messed-up circus act in all of London. At face value, the illuminated podium, the creepy-looking lights and the jester paint job smacked across frontman Johannes Eckerström's face are almost as silly as Donald Trump's wig. *Almost…* However, once you're brought into their freak show, it's safe to say that this is a metal gig that has been perfectly crafted to rival KISS in the entertainment stakes. But before that, making their UK debut are fellow Swedes The Last Band, whose Cancer-Bats-meets-In-Flames ragers loudly crash into the audience. But then Avatar tumble onstage. "I don't know if it's the fish and chips or the shepherd's pie, but it Smells Like A Freakshow!" exclaims the ever-jubilant Johannes, as he leads proceedings with the charm of an old-school ringmaster. The rest of the band, meanwhile, should win the world's first-ever Synchronized Hair-Swooshing Championship, as they headbang perfectly in time to one another over their Satanic riffs. It's all delightfully over the top, and The Eagle Has Landed from inventive new album Feathers & Flesh is performed with all the theatrics you would expect. If you're one of those people that think metal has lost a little bit of its fun side, then Avatar are the band whose Big Top you'll want to step into very soon.

JAMES HINGLE

DINOSAUR JR.

02 KENTISH TOWN FORUM, LONDON. 18.11.16

KKKKK

LEGENDARY ALT.ROCK PIONEERS PROVE THEY'RE ANYTHING BUT EXTINCT IN THE CAPITAL

TALK ABOUT impressive. Dinosaur Jr., a band now 32 years into their career, have not only recorded one of their best albums with this year's Give A Glimpse Of What Yer Not, they're also still playing to sold-out crowds. Tonight's a distraction-free confirmation of their enduring genius: there's only a few brief mumbled-mumbles to the crowd, no backdrop, and only a small portion of the available stage space is being used. It's just three men playing the living shit out of their discography. That they neither play their greatest song (Out There) or their greatest *new* song (Be A Part) matters not. Regardless of whether it's fuzzed-up classics (Get Me), subversive covers (The Cure's Just Like Heaven) or thunderous new songs (the Sabbathian groove of I Walk For Miles), the results are mind-blowing. It is not inconceivable that one day mankind will make first contact with extra-terrestrial life, and yet all of the extraordinary wonder that would entail would be but small potatoes compared to the sound of J Mascis – surrounded by amps – starting yet another cosmic guitar solo. The man simply disappears into the notes and drags you along for the ride. It's really saying something, then, that J is not the star of the show tonight. That award goes to bassist Lou Barlow, a man whose constantly contorting body suggests he's loving life in Dinosaur Jr. more than ever before. Somehow, after all this time, Dinosaur Jr. are still getting better. Talk about impressive.

GEORGE GARNER

"Hi, Nottingham Secret Agents? Yeah, we found the guy who stole your hats…"

BLACK STONE CHERRY

ROYAL CONCERT HALL, NOTTINGHAM. 01.12.16

KKKK

KENTUCKY ROCKERS SPREAD TWICE THE LOVE WITH TWO SETS IN NOTTINGHAM

WORDS: STEVE BEBBE PHOTOS: ANDY GALLAGHER

TONIGHT, BLACK Stone Cherry perform to almost 1,000 more people than actually live in their hometown of Edmonton, Kentucky (population 1,582 as of the census of 2000 – it was 1,586 before the band got famous). Given their close-knit background, it's not surprising that principles of loyalty, family and holding out for better days underpin their music, and tonight this manifesto is driven home beautifully.

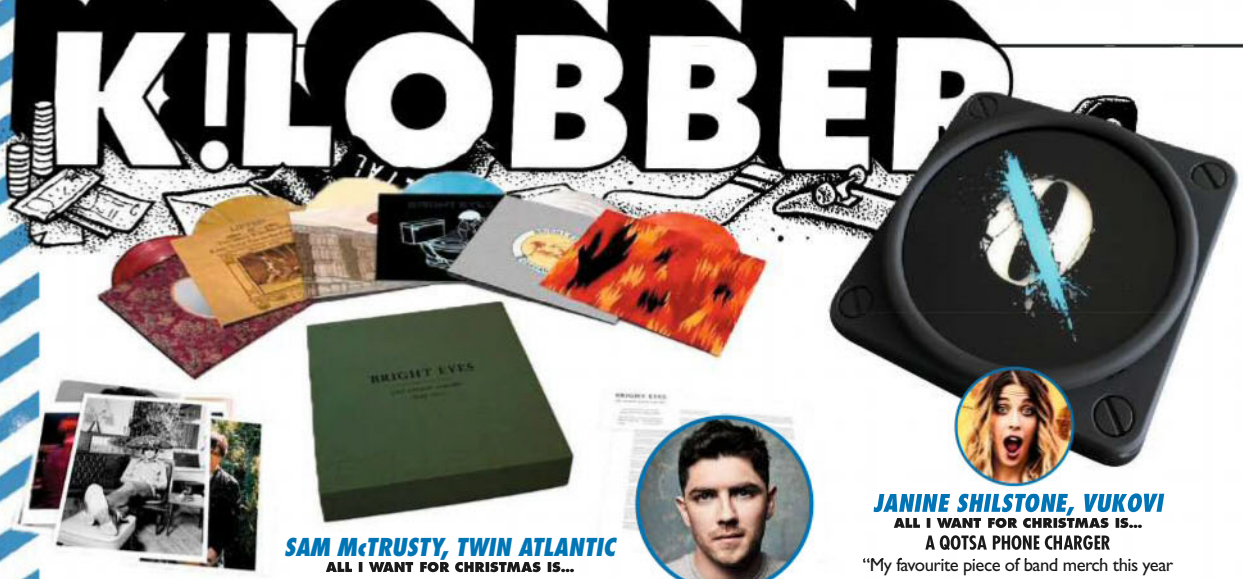
But before the Southern-tinged guitars and chest-swelling vocals commence, there's the small matter of the support band. And tonight it's… also Black Stone Cherry. Choosing to open for themselves with an acoustic set is a neat way of exploring the band's more emotional side, which also gives frontman Chris Robertson a chance to invite people into his band's world, openly asking them to experience the same feelings that inspired Things My Father Said and The Rambler. We've only had glimpses of this side of him previously, and stripped bare of electric enhancement it's impossible to overlook its quality.

When the heavy set does start, it's *really* heavy. Opener Devil's Queen sets the pace, and it's one the band maintain for almost all of what follows. Guitarist Ben Wells must cover the equivalent of a half-marathon onstage – a tiny, open-mouthed blonde blur of enthusiasm. There's plenty of fun from the band's extrovert drummer John Fred Young, too. At one point, mid-song, he hurls a stick all the way into the hands of someone on the balcony, while elsewhere, a stick is launched vertically and mysteriously doesn't return, leaving him to complete Cheaper To Drink Alone with his fists.

After *'shakin' cages'*, blaming things on the *'boom boom'* and riding a Lonely Train, Black Stone Cherry depart with a muscular cover of Hendrix's Voodoo Child. It's an aptly classic end and, next time, they may have to do four sets to better this.

Two members of BSC didn't get the memo about the acoustic set

KLOBBER



SAM McTRUSTY, TWIN ATLANTIC

ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS...

A BRIGHT EYES VINYL BOX SET

"I've become a bit of an audiophile since making our last record. When I saw that one of my favourite artists was releasing their full back-catalogue on heavyweight vinyl, it was immediately added to my Christmas list. I've jumped on the vinyl bandwagon recently. Fancy extras! The album as an art form again!"

£164.99 Normanrecords.com

JANINE SHILSTONE, VUKOVI

ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS...

A QOTSA PHONE CHARGER

"My favourite piece of band merch this year has to be the Queens Of The Stone Age charging block for your phone. It's perfect for touring, which can be a bit of a nightmare at times not having a power supply!"

$19.99 (£15.77) Store.qotsa.com

DRE FAIVRE, HELLIONS

ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS...

FIRES VEST, BY BABYLON

"The LA punk scene is alive and well with this. Youth culture has never been so prominent as it is today, and even a simple statement on cloth can empower action against ill-treatment, exploitation and injustice."

$85 (£67.54) Babylon.la

ALL I WANT FOR

EVERY WEEK IN KLOBBER WE TELL YOU ABOUT AMAZING BAND MERCH YOU

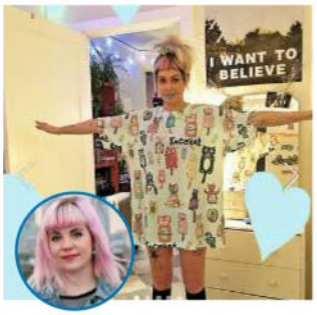
MATTIE VANT, VANT

ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS...

A SLAVES IRON MAIDEN T-SHIRT

"When I'm dancing to Slade with my granny, I'll wear Slaves' awesome reimagining of the classic Iron Maiden top. Hopefully I've been a good enough boy!"

£15 Slaves-uk.myshopify.com



NICOLA LEEL, DOE

ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS...

A *SWEEEEEEET* TACOCAT T-SHIRT

"Tacocat were selling this on their UK tour, but I sadly never got a chance to pick one up. Not only does it have cats printed literally all over it, but said cats were drawn by the band members, so you get that personal touch. In a world of bland, black, one-sided prints born from a 'Would people actually buy that, though?' mentality, this was a bold move."

$35 (£27.79) Squareup.com/market/tacocat4u

RICH MANDELL, HAPPY ACCIDENTS

ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS...

RIHANNA SOCKS

"Granted, they aren't rock, but they look like an AFI album cover, so maybe they still count? Either these or another Doe shirt – you can't have too many…"

$18 (£14.28) Stance.com

JAMES MONTEITH, TESSERACT

ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS...

THE ALGORITHM'S MIDI FLOPPY DISK

"Only The Algorithm could get away with selling his music as MIDI files on an obsolete format – the floppy disk! And if for some reason you don't have an archaic computer up in your loft, it makes a lovely ornament you can put on the mantelpiece."

£10 Thealgorithm.awesomedistro.com

PETE DARLINGTON, SPRING KING

ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS...

GET INUIT'S WE'RE ALL GOING TO HELL T-SHIRT

"With 2016 being the year of Brexit and Trump, my favourite merch of the year *has* to be Get Inuit's T-shirt with the words 'We're All Going To Hell' written across the chest."

£10 Store.getinu.it

LOUISE DISTRAS

ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS...

A LOVE ZOMBIES PASSIONFRUIT BUNDLE

"I bought this via PledgeMusic to support their latest album – but I'd take another from Santa. One of the reasons I like Love Zombies so much is because they involve their fans in everything – all the album art, posters, and banner is all designed by fans."

All gone. But some nice eBayer may have one

LIV BRUCE, PWR BTTM

ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS...

THE SPOOK SCHOOL'S BURN MASCULINI-TEA MUG

"We're on tour with The Spook School at the moment, and we couldn't help but notice their delightful little Burn Masculini-Tea mug at the merch table. We've always carried a fondness for novelty mugs we see being sold at service stations and such, but this mug is the one mug to rule them all."

£8 Thespookschool.bandcamp.com

HARRIET HYDE, BLACK MOTH

ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS...

A LIMB FOOTBALL SCARF

"We're looking at a bitterly cold winter in Leeds recording Black Moth III, so this killer football scarf from our label brothers Limb will do perfectly. Less shirts, more winter woolies!"

£8 Limbtheband.bigcartel.com

SPARKLES*, AREA 11

ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS...

ENTER SHIKARI SOCKS

"I think the Shikari 'socks in a tin' are one of the best pieces of band merch I've seen this year. Or *ever*. A perfect stocking filler, and who doesn't love getting fresh socks at Christmas?"

£14.99 Entershikari.com

STEPH O'SULLIVAN, GREYWIND

ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS...

A FALL OUT BOY STRANGER THINGS TEE

"Stranger Things is my favourite show since Breaking Bad, and Fall Out Boy are one of my favourite bands. As soon as I saw this shirt, I knew I needed it! Shame it was only on sale for a week!"

Sold out. Try your luck on eBay

CHRISTMA$ IS...

CAN SPEND YOUR SHINY PENNIES ON. BUT WHAT DO THE STARS WANT?

STEVEN BATTELLE

ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS...

QUEEN'S HOT SPACE HOT SAUCE

"It seems that Queen Productions know no limits as to what they will stick the band's name on, and I, in turn, have no limit on what I will buy purely because it says 'Queen' on it. I actually hate hot sauce, but I *love* Queen's Hot Space."

£8.99 Queenonlinestore.com

BILLY HOWARD PRICE, PUPPY

ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS...

SOME OLD NU-METAL KLOBBER

"Last Christmas I got a Sopranos box set, and I was very impressed with some of the audacious merch worn by Tony Soprano's son, A.J. – he rocks a Slipknot windbreaker and a dope Marilyn Manson shirt."

£14.99 Impericon.com

ALEX COSTELLO, ROAM

ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS...

A TROPHY EYES T-SHIRT

"I like designs that are simple and not too graphic. Each tee has an embroidered logo with different colourways. They went the extra mile and got labels, which makes it way smarter than other merch!"

£16.99 24hundred.net

GRIFFIN DICKINSON, SHVPES

ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS...

UM, A BRICK, FROM EMINEM'S CHILDHOOD HOME

"I want an Eminem brick – he's been selling them. I'd like to think he put in some concrete hours when harvesting these bad boys from his childhood home. I'd like to see him add *mortar* his merch store, like spaghetti... (*Okay Griff, that's enough – Ed*)"

Going on eBay for £900. With free postage

MARIEL LOVELAND, CANDY HEARTS

ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS...

A MOOSE BLOOD T-SHIRT

"This T-shirt is from my boyfriend's band, so I can think of him whenever I wear it. I think the image is super-cute, and it reminds me of high school when I would lay in my bed and listen to Brand New while putting off my math homework."

£14.99 Impericon.com

LUKE ROCKETS, WITH CONFIDENCE

ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS...

CLASSIC BLINK-182 SHORTS

"Whether re-gifting these shorts to my girlfriend or keeping them for myself for whenever I want to feel a little frisky under my jeans, they'd be the one thing I'd want Santa to empty out of his sack straight down my chimney."

Sold out. Try eBay for pre-owned shorts...

GIG

DON'T MISS

HECK

GET THE SHERRY* OUT 'CAUSE THE NOTTINGHAM NOISENIKS ARE PLAYING A KERRISTMAS SHOW! (*AND THE MULLED WINE, AND COGNAC…)

YOU'RE PUTTING ON A FREE GIG – IS THIS YOUR KERRISTMAS GIFT TO THE PEOPLE?

MATT REYNOLDS (*VOCALS/GUITAR*): "It is our Christmas present to the people of Nottingham! Our good long-suffering fans that don't get many gigs from us, so we thought, 'Because it's Christmas we'll do something in a *really* small venue, with our good friends in Palm Reader.' Hopefully it goes down very well."

IT'S KERRISTMASSSSSSSSS! HOW MERRY CAN WE EXPECT YOU TO GET?

"Well, we're probably gonna get very merry indeed. I'm no stranger to a booze-beer or two. I think we should be getting the mulled wine and sherry out because it's Christmas – not until after we've played, though. Drinking before I play is not allowed. I've tried it before and it doesn't end well. I've messed up big shows because I've got too drunk before we played – there was one night many years ago when I stripped down to my boxer shorts onstage (*laughs*); I thought it was a good idea at the time, but I don't think I was really playing many songs, and that's why we're not allowed to drink anymore. Someone ruined it for everybody! I drank an entire bottle of Cognac, so I was doing it the classy way. It wasn't Christmas, it was just because (*laughs*)."

YOU GUYS REALLY LIKE WRECKING STUFF… HAVE YOU EVER WRECKED KERRISTMAS?

"No, I'm generally very festive and full of cheer. I've definitely drank too much and fallen asleep before four o'clock – that's probably the closest I've got to any debauchery on Christmas."

> ***"I DRANK A WHOLE BOTTLE OF COGNAC BEFORE WE PLAYED"***
> **MATT REYNOLDS**

WHICH KERRISTMAS MOVIE DO YOU THINK BEST DESCRIBES HECK?

"(*Instantly*) Die Hard, because I want to be Bruce Willis – I channel him when I'm up there. He's the most destructive guy and saves the Nakatomi Plaza from terrorists, which is just like one of our shows."

DOES EVERYONE IN THE BAND GET EACH OTHER KERRISTMAS PRESENTS?

"Well, I've got everyone a Christmas present and I hope they've got one for me as well. Maybe when they read this they'll realise they've gotta get off their arses and get me something. If they haven't got me anything, then I'll never get them a present again, and they'll be getting coal next Christmas. How much thought did I put in? Er, very little (*laughs*). But they'll love it! I've been very prepared in getting these presents, but the rest of my shopping is usually a smash'n'grab on Christmas Eve."

FINALLY, WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR 2017?

"We got announced for South By South West festival next year, so that means we're going over to Texas in March, which is as scary as it is exciting. We were thinking about going, and then they invited us, so we ummed and ahhed, and then they just announced us on the bill, so we *have* to go now (*laughs*). It's kinda forced us into action. What will Americans think of HECK? It could go one of two ways: they'll either love it or they'll fucking hate it – we might get deported after the first song. We're also working towards album number two. We've been writing lots for that and we're looking to do a bit of recording when we're in America with a guy we've met – I'm not allowed to say who but he's made some big records. I'm incredibly excited for 2017, 'cause I get to go to Texaaaaaaaas!"

DATE: Nottingham Rough Trade December 17. Support: Palm Reader, Autumn Diet Plans.

WORDS: JENNYFER J. WALKER **PHOTO:** CHRIS CASEY

GOGGLEBROS

WHEN THE BURY TOMORROW BROTHERS AREN'T FIGHTING OVER THE REMOTE, THEY'RE HERE TO TELL YOU WHAT TO WATCH THIS KERRISTMAS...

FRIDAY 23

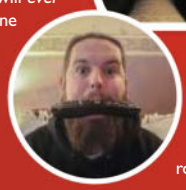
FILM THE HOBBIT: THE DESOLATION OF SMAUG, 8PM, ITV

DAVYD WINTER-BATES (*BASS*): "Bendingbars Cucumberpatch voices a devastatingly-charming dragon guarding a treasure from a bunch of angry children with axes. I like watching this movie because it's a reminder to me how much better Lord Of The Rings was."

KERRISTMAS EVE

MICHAEL MCINTYRE'S BIG SHOW, 7:25PM, BBC1

DAV: "The only reason I'll be watching this show is to meticulously study his mannerisms and movements, so when I eventually do end him, wear his skin as a suit and take his place, no-one will *ever* know. There is only room for one average overweight comedian and I'm already filling that gap."

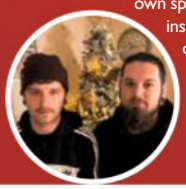


FILM THE MUPPET CHRISTMAS CAROL, 5:50PM C4

DANI WINTER-BATES (*VOCALS*): "The Muppet Christmas Carol is honestly the best thing to happen to Christmas since Santa was born on this day 2016 years ago to two elves named Edna and Kevin. It's so good that we actually listen to the soundtrack whilst driving around and imagining Rizzo's with us, because he's the best."

FILM THE INBETWEENERS MOVIE, 9PM, E4

DANI: "The movie that gave every teenage boy unrealistic expectations of a 'lads holiday', no-one can actually sleep in an ants' nest. I've never really been on a lads holiday, but if I was going to I think that my first holiday away from my parents would have been just like this, with less booze, less girls, more crying and a large room service bill."



KERRISTMAS DAY

THE QUEEN'S SPEECH, 3PM, ITV

DANI: "I'm going to sit my arse down and listen to Ol' Lizzy give me an inspirational talking to. Half way through I'll get bored and press mute, using the rest of the speech to voice her over with my very own speech – which albeit isn't as inspirational, but just a series of drunken musings about other times I've also been drunk."

THE GREAT CHRISTMAS BAKE OFF, 4:45PM, BBC 1

DAV: "It's the end of an era. No more Mary. No more innuendoes! There's going to be tears as we say goodbye to the most British of programmes! So raise your soggy bottoms to the sky as we say goodbye, because – let's face it – none of us will watch it on Channel 4."

HOME ALONE, CHANNEL 4, 6PM

DANI: "When I was a kid I was more pissed-off that my house wasn't big enough to set traps from potential forced entries. Instead, I'd sit by the letterbox with a can of LYNX and a lighter."

BOXING DAY

LEGO'S BIG CHRISTMAS, 8PM, C4

DAV: "No festive season is complete without Lego. I've got no idea what this is going to be, but what I'd really love is if it was an hour-long stop-frame recreation of the greatest hits of MCR. Imagine it, though, that would be a Christmas miracle I think we would all enjoy."

THE BIG FAT QUIZ OF THE YEAR 2016, 9PM, C4

DAV: "Every year I promise myself I'll watch this but end up asleep before the end. This year I will triumph and make it past the finish line! Richard Ayoade is my hero, and so I try and watch everything he's in."

TUESDAY 27

THE 50 GREATEST HARRY POTTER MOMENTS, 4:10PM, ITV

DAV: "I'm going to sit in my robes, with my wand out waving it wildly at the screen as we count down the best Potter moments. This is actually going to be a must-watch for me, but the real question is: would the top 50 film moments be even remotely similar to the top 50 book moments?"

FILM LABYRINTH, 4:10PM, C5

DAV: "I've actually watched this twice this year already. It was always one of my favourite movies, even before the tragic loss of Bowie this year. I was obsessed with this, The Dark Crystal and Gremlins as a kid, and would always watch them around this time of year. And this year will be no different."

WEDNESDAY 28

WHAT BRITAIN BOUGHT IN 2016, 8PM, C4

BOTH: "Hopefully Earthbound [Bury Tomorrow's fourth album]!"

NYE CLUB GUIDE

ARE YOU READY TO PARTY LIKE IT'S, UM, 2017 THIS NEW YEAR'S EVE? CHECK OUT THESE PICKS TO HAVE A ROCKIN' START TO 2017...

DECEMBER 30

FACE DOWN'S ANNUAL PRE-NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY
LONDON KING'S CROSS SCALA
10PM – 6AM
ADMISSION: £8 / £7 WITH FLYER

Why wait until New Year's Eve to get wankered to a blistering soundtrack when you can start 24 hours earlier? Face Down will be blasting the best in rock sounds, and with 'WTF?' the fancy dress theme, you can *finally* mosh like a loon while dressed as a vacuum cleaner. Rou Reynolds from Enter Shikari is also in the house dropping tunes!
Facebook.com/facedownrockclub

DECEMBER 31

EDDIE'S LAST EVER NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY
BIRMINGHAM EDDIE'S
9PM – LATE
ADMISSION: £10 ON THE DOOR / £7 IN ADVANCE

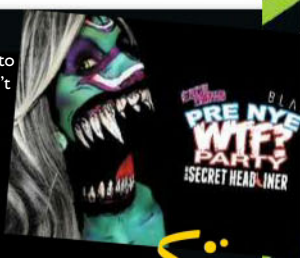
It's true, this is the last NYE hurrah for a Birmingham institution. But, there will be no weeping into your beverage! This one's going off like a bomb rammed with all of your favourite bands, so prepare to get blasted with the finest from Killswitch Engage, Iron Maiden, Slipknot and more!
Eddiesrocks.com

CAMDEN ROCKS NEW YEAR'S EVE BONANZA
CAMDEN UNDERWORLD
9PM – 4AM
ADMISSION: £20

As long as you can swallow a little Arctic Monkeys and Oasis alongside your blink-182 and RATM, then Camden Rocks is going to rock *you*! With Gallows guitarist Lags among those manning the decks of doom you can't go wrong wrapping up your 2016 in this crammed, sweaty space!
Facebook.com/camdenrocksclub

REBELLION'S WILD WILD (NORTH) WEST NYE
MANCHESTER REBELLION
9PM – LAST MAN STANDING
ADMISSION: £10 / £7 ADVANCE

Those lovely, batshit folk at Rebellion are rounding out the year cowboy-style! With a free tequila shot on arrival, plus a rodeo bull, this'll be a night to remember – but don't forget to dress to impress your fellow frontier folk!
Rebellion.club



UPRAWR BIRMINGHAM ASYLUM
10:30PM – 3AM
ADMISSION: £10

Hosting the Awesome Muther Fucker Awards this NYE, Uprawr are taking things to the next level. That *you* could be crowned Most Hardcore Partier, Least Soberest Person Of The Year or even Biggest Dickhead while embracing their insanely cheap drinks and losing your shit to rocking tunes means you *have* to be there, doesn't it? Yes, yes it does.
Totaluprawr.com

WORDS: DAN SLESSOR

MY VENUE

CRAZY REINDEER ARENA

LAPLAND

RAKKAVAARANTIE 5, 99130 SIRKKA, FINLAND

KOTA, SHAMANIC FOLK ARTIST

ALRIGHT, KOTA! THIS ALL SOUNDS VERY FUN – CAN YOU TELL US WHAT THE CRAZY REINDEER ARENA IS LIKE INSIDE?

"You could say that it is pretty big – at least, on our scale! It holds about 1,000 to 2,000 people, with a large dance floor right in front of the stage, but there is also a lot of room around the mixing booth and near the bars, plus the balcony that goes around the dance floor. When it comes to the décor there is a really nice old-timey feeling there – it is almost like entering an enormous two-storey cabin in the woods, complete with its own stage and a couple of bars. Naturally there are some modern aspects to the interior, but all in all it's in good taste, keeping a main focus on the excess of timber and reindeer horns."

AND WHAT KIND OF BANDS WOULD YOU NORMALLY FIND PLAYING HERE?

"I'd say that pretty much every single one of Finland's bands from medium to huge [Children Of Bodom, Nightwish] has played the Hullu Poro, regardless of genre. Since it is mostly a holiday season resort, there's people visiting from all over Finland, not just from the local region. Also, for that exact same reason, I'd say that if your band is too underground, you are not going to play there; for example Korpiklaani are big enough to get on their stage, but I doubt that we'll be seeing any black metal gigs here any time soon! It's the kind of place that, sadly, has to follow trends."

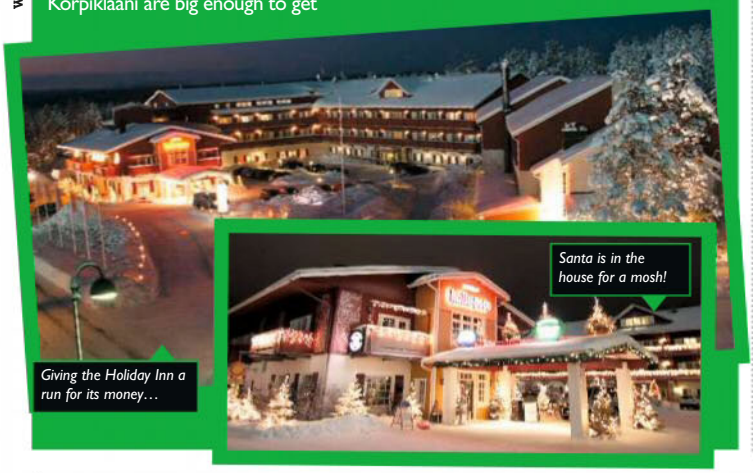
SO WHAT IS IT LIKE FOR THE REST OF THE YEAR – ARE THERE ANY OTHER BIG EVENTS?

"Well, it's mostly a seasonal venue with an obvious emphasis on the winter holidays. It's part of a bigger resort complex when there are skiers and snowboarders, so there are probably some gigs and entertainment – comedy nights and whatnot. The kids get their Santa shows and the adults their preferred entertainment. There's even some kind of adult entertainment event coming up with promises of 'sex and action' – whatever the hell that is…"

UM, OKAY! IS LAPLAND THE MOST KERRISTMASSY PLACE TO LIVE IN THE WORLD… IT MUST FEEL PRETTY DAMN FESTIVE EVERY DAY OUT THERE, SURELY?

"To be honest with you, yes it does! That's actually one of the reasons why I eventually relocated myself a little bit more to the south of Lapland. I'm not much of a Christmassy person myself, but I can imagine someone who is into it more would enjoy themselves quite a bit. During the summer it winds down because, of course, that's when Santa takes his yearly vacation."

WORDS: AMIT SHARMA



Giving the Holiday Inn a run for its money…

Santa is in the house for a mosh!

ALOUD.COM
buy your tickets from www.aloud.com

BOOKING NOW

A DAY TO REMEMBER
Cardiff Motorpoint Arena January 22, 2017, Glasgow SSE Hydro 23, Birmingham Barclaycard Arena 25, London SSE Arena Wembley 27, Leeds Arena 28. Support: Neck Deep, Moose Blood.

AGAINST THE CURRENT
Brighton Haunt March 8, 2017, Norwich Epic Studios 9, O2 Academy2 Liverpool 10, Edinburgh Liquid Room 12, Sheffield Leadmill 13, Cardiff Globe 14, London Bush Hall 17.

ALL TIME LOW
London Eventim Apollo Hammersmith March 10, 2017, Cardiff Great Hall March 11, Southampton Guildhall 13, Cambridge Corn Exchange 14, O2 Academy Leeds 15, O2 Academy Birmingham 16, Liverpool Guild Of Students 18, Belfast Ulster Hall 19, Dublin Olympia 20, O2 Academy Bristol 22, O2 Apollo Manchester 23, O2 Academy Sheffield 24, O2 Academy Newcastle 25, Edinburgh Corn Exchange 27, O2 Academy Glasgow 28, Norwich Nick Rayns LCR 30, London O2 Academy Brixton 31. Supports: SWMRS, Waterparks.

ANNISOKAY
Birmingham Flapper March 1, 2017, London O2 Islington Academy2 2, Southampton Joiners 3, Cardiff Fuel Bar 4. Support: Griever.

ANTHRAX
O2 Institute Birmingham February 9, 2017, London O2 Forum Kentish Town 10, O2 Academy Bristol 11, Nottingham Rock City 13, Manchester Academy 14, Glasgow Barrowland 15, Newcastle University 16, Norwich UEA 17.

APOCALYPTICA
Manchester Bridgewater Hall February 27, 2017, Edinburgh Queen's Hall 28, London Royal Festival Hall March 1.

ATTILA
Glasgow Garage April 1, 2017, Leeds Key Club 2, Nottingham Rescue Rooms 3, O2 Academy2 Birmingham 4, Bristol Marble Factory 5, Manchester Academy II 6, London Camden Electric Ballroom 7, Southampton Engine Rooms 9.

AVENGED SEVENFOLD
Dublin 3Arena January 7, 2017, Glasgow SSE Hydro 10, Newcastle Metro Radio Arena 12, Birmingham Genting Arena 13, Sheffield Arena 15, Manchester Arena 16, Nottingham Motorpoint Arena 18, Cardiff Motorpoint Arena 19, London O2 Arena 21 – 22. Support: Disturbed, In Flames.

BLACK PEAKS
Oxford Bullingdon January 24, 2017, Bournemouth Sound Circus 25, London Tufnell Park Dome 26, Belfast Limelight 28, Dublin Workmans Club 29, Glasgow King Tut's 30, Newcastle Cluny 31, Manchester Ruby Lounge February 1, Nottingham Rock City Basement 2, Cheltenham Frog & Fiddle 3, Leicester Firebug 4, O2 Academy3 Birmingham 5. Supports: Tigercub, Two Glass Eyes, Employed To Serve, Bad Sign (certain dates only).

BLACK SABBATH
Manchester Arena January 22, 2017, Glasgow SSE Hydro Arena 24, Leeds Arena 26, O2 Arena London 29 and 31, Birmingham Genting Arena February 2 and 4. Support: Rival Sons.

BLINK
Cardiff Motorpoint Arena July 3, 2017, Nottingham Motorpoint Arena 4, Leeds First Direct Arena 5, Birmingham Barclaycard Arena 7, Newcastle Metro Radio Arena 9, Glasgow SSE Hydro 11, Manchester Arena 14, Liverpool Echo Arena 15, Bournemouth International Centre 17, London O2 Arena 19 – 20.

BLOODSTOCK FESTIVAL
Line-up: Amon Amarth, Blind Guardian, Testament, Possessed, Hatebreed, Hell, Whitechapel, Decapitated, Brujeria, Obituary. Derbyshire Catton Park August 10 – 13, 2017.

BRITISH SUMMER TIME
Line-up: Green Day. London Hyde Park July 1.

BURY TOMORROW
O2 Institute Birmingham February 14, 2017, O2 Ritz Manchester 15, Glasgow Garage 16, Newcastle Riverside 17, Leeds Stylus 19, Nottingham Rock City 20, Cardiff Y Plas 21, London O2 Forum Kentish Town 22. Support: Crossfaith.

COUNTERFEIT
Leeds Key Club April 18, 2017, Manchester Academy III 19, O2 Academy2 Newcastle 20, Glasgow Stereo 21, Nottingham Rock City Basement 22, O2 Academy3 Birmingham 23, Bristol Fleece 25, London Camden Underworld 26, Southampton Joiners 28, Brighton Haunt 29.

DEAF HAVANA
O2 Ritz Manchester February 17, 2017, O2 ABC Glasgow 18, O2 Academy Bristol 20, O2 Institute Birmingham 21, Norwich UEA 23, London O2 Forum Kentish Town 24.

DEEZ NUTS
Birmingham Mama Roux's February 13, 2017, Manchester Sound Control 14, London O2 Islington Academy 15. Support: Comeback Kid, Hellions, First Blood, Risk It.

DEFTONES
London Alexandra Palace May 5, 2017, O2 Apollo Manchester 6, Glasgow SECC 7. Support: AFI.

DESERTFEST
Line-up: Turbonegro, Samsara Blues Experiment, The Picturebooks, Satan's Satyrs, Yuri Gagarin, Vodun, Mammoth Storm, Elephant Tree. London Camden 28 – 30 April, 2017 (various venues).

THE DILLINGER ESCAPE PLAN
Norwich Waterfront January 18, 2017, Glasgow QMU 19, Manchester Academy II 20, Nottingham Rock City 21, O2 Institute Birmingham 22, Cardiff TramShed 23, London O2 Forum Kentish Town 25, Brighton Concorde II 26.

DOWNLOAD FESTIVAL
Line-up: System Of A Down, Biffy Clyro, Aerosmith, Slayer, Prophets Of Rage, Rob Zombie, AFI, Five Finger Death Punch, Of Mice & Men, Sleeping With Sirens, Fozzy, Every Time I Die, Simple Plan, Motionless In White, The Story So Far, Pierce The Veil, Alter Bridge, Airbourne, Opeth, Clutch, Sum 41, Good Charlotte, Issues, Ministry, Mastodon, DevilDriver, Coheed And Cambria, Four Year Strong, Knuckle Puck, WAKRAT, Basement, The One Hundred, Crown The Empire, The Dead Daisies, Greywind, Astroid Boys, Exodus, Lost Society, God Damn, Red Fang. Derby Donington Park June 9 – 11, 2017.

DROPKICK MURPHYS
London O2 Academy Brixton January 27, 2017. Support: Slapshot, Skinny Lister.

EMMURE
Southampton 1865 January 16, 2017, Nottingham Rescue Rooms 17, Manchester Sound Control 18, Glasgow Garage 19, London O2 Academy Islington 20, Leeds Key Club 21. Support: After The Burial, Fit For A King, Oceans Ate Alaska, Loathe.

EMP PERSISTENCE TOUR 2017
Line-up: Suicidal Tendencies, Agnostic Front. London O2 Forum Kentish Town January 29, 2017.

FOUR YEAR STRONG
Bristol Fleece February 14, 2017, Manchester Academy II 15, O2 Academy2 Birmingham 16, London Camden KOKO 17. Support: Chunk! No, Captain Chunk!, Boston Manor, Homebound.

FRANK CARTER & THE RATTLESNAKES
Norwich Waterfront March 16, 2017, Manchester Academy II 17, Newcastle Riverside 18, Glasgow Saint Luke's 19, Belfast Oh Yeah Music Centre 21, Dublin Academy II 22, Leeds Stylus 24, Birmingham Asylum 25, Cardiff Globe 26, Exeter Phoenix 27, Portsmouth Wedgewood Rooms 29, London Camden KOKO 30.

GHOST
Norwich UEA March 24, 2017, Cardiff Great Hall 25, London O2 Forum Kentish Town 26, O2 Academy Leeds 28, O2 ABC Glasgow 29, O2 Apollo Manchester 31, O2 Academy Birmingham April 1, Brighton Dome 2.

GREEN DAY
Leeds First Direct Arena February 5, 2017, Manchester Arena 6, London O2 Arena 8. Support: The Interrupters.

GUNS N' ROSES
London Stadium June 16, 2017.

HALFNOISE
London Lexington January 13, 2017.

HEAVY SCOTLAND
Line-up: Arch Enemy, Dyscarnate, Sodomized Cadaver, Disposable, Behemoth, Grave, Shiraz Lane, Centrilia. Edinburgh Corn Exchange April 1 – 2, 2017.

HELLIONS
Brighton Sticky Mike's February 21, 2017, Nottingham Red Room 22, Glasgow Garage Attic

23, Newcastle Jumpin Jacks 24, Leeds Key Club 25, Southampton Joiners 26, Plymouth Underground 27, Cardiff Fuel 28. Support: Acres.

THE HUNNA
Sheffield Leadmill January 14, 2017, O2 Ritz Manchester 15, Newcastle Riverside 16, Edinburgh Liquid Room 17, Leeds Stylus University 18, Nottingham Rock City 20, O2 Academy Leicester 21, O2 Institute Birmingham 23, Bristol SWX 24, O2 Academy2 Oxford 25, London O2 Shepherd's Bush Empire 26.

IMPERICON FESTIVAL 2017
Line-up: Thy Art Is Murder, Being As An Ocean, Miss May I, In Hearts Wake. Manchester Academy April 17.

IRON MAIDEN
Nottingham Motorpoint Arena May 4, 2017, Manchester Arena 8, Sheffield Arena 10, Leeds First Direct Arena 11, Newcastle Metro Radio Arena 14, Glasgow SSE Hydro 16, Aberdeen GE Oil & Gas Arena 17, Liverpool Echo Arena 20, Birmingham Barclaycard Arena 21, Cardiff Motorpoint Arena 24, London O2 Arena 27. Support: Shinedown.

JAPANDROIDS
O2 Institute Birmingham April 28, 2017, Glasgow Garage 20, Leeds Stylus May 1, Nottingham Rescue Rooms 2, Manchester Gorilla 4, Brighton Concorde II 5, London O2 Shepherd's Bush Empire 6.

KISS
Glasgow SSE Hydro May 27, 2017, Birmingham Barclaycard Arena 28, Manchester Arena 30, London O2 Arena 31.

KREATOR
Manchester Academy February 28, 2017, Dublin Vicar Street March 1, London O2 Forum Kentish Town 2. Support: Sepultura, Soilwork, Aborted.

LOWER THAN ATLANTIS
Norwich UEA March 9, 2017, O2 Academy Birmingham 10, Manchester Academy 11, O2 Academy Leeds 13, O2 Academy Newcastle 14, O2 ABC Glasgow 15, London O2 Academy Brixton 17, Cardiff Great Hall 18. Support: Young Guns, Hands Like Houses, ROAM.

MALLORY KNOX
O2 Academy Bristol March 20, 2017, Cardiff TramShed 21, Norwich UEA 22, O2 Institute Birmingham 24, Sheffield Leadmill 25, Cambridge Corn Exchange 26, Aberdeen Garage 28, Edinburgh Liquid Room 29, Newcastle University 31, O2 Academy Liverpool April 1, Portsmouth Pyramids 2, O2 Academy Oxford 4, London Camden KOKO 5 – 6. Support: Lonely The Brave, Fatherson.

MAYHEM
London Camden Electric Ballroom March 29, 2017, Manchester Club Academy 30, Dublin Academy 31, Glasgow Lords Of The Land April 1.

THE MENZINGERS
Southampton Talking Heads April 18, 2017, London Camden KOKO 19, Bristol Bierkeller 20, Manchester Academy II 21, Glasgow Oran Mor 22, Derby Venue 23, Norwich Epic Studios 24. Support: The Flatliners.

MESHUGGAH
O2 Academy2 Bristol January 12, 2017, O2 Institute Birmingham 13, Nottingham Rock City 14, O2 ABC Glasgow 15, Belfast Limelight 17, Dublin Academy 10, O2 Ritz Manchester 19, London O2 Forum Kentish Town 20.

MONSTER TRUCK
Belfast Limelight II March 13, 2017, Dublin Academy II 14, Bristol Marble Factory 15, O2 Institute Birmingham 17, Manchester Club Academy 18, Glasgow King Tut's 19, Nottingham Rescue Rooms 21, London Camden Electric Ballroom 22.

OATHBREAKER
London Camden Underworld January 20, 2017, Glasgow Broadcast 22, Belfast Voodoo 23, Dublin Grand Social 24, Birmingham Flapper 25, Leeds Brudenell Social Club 26, Manchester Star & Garter 27, Brighton Green Door Store 28, Bristol Exchange 29.

PARKWAY DRIVE
London O2 Academy Brixton April 8, 2017, Nottingham Rock City 9, O2 Academy Leeds 10, Cardiff University Great Hall 11. Support: Asking Alexandria.

PINEGROVE
Bristol Exchange February 21, 2017, London King's Cross Scala 22, Manchester Deaf Institute 23, Glasgow Stereo 24, Birmingham Mama Roux's 25, Cambridge Portland Arms 26, Norwich Epic Studios 28, Leeds Brudenell Social Club March 1, Brighton Haunt 2.

PLACEBO
Brighton Centre December 14, London SSE Arena Wembley 15.

PWR BTTM
Dublin Workmans Club April 10, 2017, Manchester Deaf Institute 11, Sheffield Harley 12, Birmingham Hare & Hounds 13, Glasgow CCA 15, Bristol Exchange 16, Brighton Haunt 17, London Islington Garage 18.

PHOTO: WALTER WLODARCZYK

JUST ANNOUNCED

BLOODSTOCK FESTIVAL 2017
Latest additions: Skindred, Annihilator, Municipal Waste.

CREEPER
Manchester Academy II March 25, Glasgow Garage 26, Newcastle University 27, Leeds Stylus 28, London Camden Electric Ballroom 30, Southampton 1865 31, O2 Institute2 Birmingham April 1, Cardiff Tramshed 2.

DESERTFEST 2017
Latest additions: Sleep.

EVAROSE
O2 Academy Oxford March 4, Southampton Joiners 5, Newcastle Jumpin' Jacks 6, Dundee Redd Suite 7, Glasgow Broadcast 8, O2 Academy2 Birmingham 9, Manchester Zoo 10, London O2 Academy2 Islington 11. Support: Veridian.

GREEN DAY
Date added: Glasgow Bellahouston Park July 4. Support: Rancid.

GUNS N' ROSES
Date added: London Stadium June 17.

HAND MADE FESTIVAL 2017
Line-up: Twin Atlantic, Pulled Apart By Horses, Tigercub, Muncie Girls, Puppy. O2 Academy Leicester April 29 – 30.

PRIMUS
London Camden Roundhouse June 20.

RITCHIE BLACKMORE'S RAINBOW
Manchester Arena June 22, Glasgow SSE Hydro 25, Birmingham Genting Arena 28.

STONE FREE FESTIVAL 2017
Line-up: Ritchie Blackmore's Rainbow. London O2 Arena June 17 – 18.

TECH FEST 2017
Line-up: The Black Dahlia Murder, Obscura, Aborted, The Arusha Accord, Hacktivist, Ingested, The Algorithm, Oceans Ate Alaska, Dyscarnate, Carcer City, Exist Immortal, Sarah Longfield, Alaska, The Fine Constant, Within Destruction, Aenimus, Toska, The Royal, Hieroglyph, FRCTRD, Fraktions, Nycosia. Newark Showground July 6 – 11.

THE PRETTY RECKLESS
Nottingham Rock City January 19, 2017, O2 Institute Birmingham 20, London O2 Forum Kentish Town 21, O2 ABC Glasgow 23, O2 Ritz Manchester 24.

RAMBLIN' MAN FAIR
Line-up: ZZ Top, Monster Truck, Jared James Nichols, Kansas, Magnum, Joanne Shaw Taylor, The Quireboys, Big Boy Bloater, Dan Baird & Homemade Sin. Maidstone Mote Park July 29 – 30, 2017.

READING & LEEDS FESTIVAL 2017
Line-up: Muse, At The Drive-In, Architects, Against The Current, While She Sleeps. Reading Richfield Avenue, Leeds Bramham Park August 25 – 27.

REAL FRIENDS
Re-scheduled dates: Manchester Club Academy April 6, 2017, Birmingham Asylum 7, Newcastle Riverside 9, Glasgow Saint Luke's 10, Leeds Stylus 11, Bristol Thekla 13, Norwich Epic Studios 14, Southampton Engine Rooms 15, London Electric Ballroom Camden 16.

ROYAL REPUBLIC
Glasgow Garage March 30, 2017, Manchester Academy II 31, London Camden Electric Ballroom April 1.

SABATON
Dublin Vicar Street January 10, 2017, O2 Academy Glasgow 11, O2 Apollo Manchester 13, London O2 Academy Brixton 14. Support: Accept.

SEAWAY
Southampton Joiners January 24, 2017, Bristol Fleece 25, Leeds Key Club 26, Glasgow Stereo 27, O2 Academy2 Newcastle 29, Manchester Sound Control 30, Nottingham Rock City Basement 31, Norwich Epic Studios February 1, O2 Academy2 Birmingham 2, London Camden Underworld 3.

SLAM DUNK FESTIVAL 2017
Line-up: Enter Shikari, Don Broco, Bowling For Soup, Reel Big Fish, Less Than Jake, Cute Is What We Aim For, We The Kings. Birmingham NEC May 27, Leeds City Centre 28, Hatfield Forum 29.

SLØTFACE
Manchester Castle February 13, 2017, Leeds Oporto 14, Glasgow Nice N Sleazy 15, London Kamio 17, Brighton Green Door Store 18.

STATE CHAMPS
Southampton Engine Rooms March 9, 2017, O2 Academy Bristol 10, O2 Ritz Manchester 11, Newcastle Riverside 13, Glasgow Garage 14, Leeds Beckett University 16, O2 Institute Birmingham 17, London O2 Kentish Town Forum 18.

STEELHOUSE FESTIVAL
Line-up: Skindred, Stone Broken. Ebbw Vale Gwent July 29 – 30, 2017.

SUM 41
O2 Academy Birmingham February 24, Manchester Academy 25, O2 Academy Leeds 26, Glasgow Barrowlands 28, London O2 Academy Brixton March 2, O2 Academy Bristol 3, Nottingham Rock City, O2 Guildhall Southampton 6.

TAKING BACK SUNDAY
O2 ABC Glasgow February 14, 2017, O2 Ritz Manchester 15, London O2 Forum Kentish Town 16, Nottingham Rock City 17, Norwich UEA 18. Support: Frank Iero And The Patience.

TOGETHERFEST
Line-up: Youth Of Today, American Nightmare, Trash Talk, Vanishing Life, Wolf Down. London Electric Ballroom Camden February 25, 2017.

TOUCHÉ AMORÉ
Brighton Haunt February 15, 2017, Bristol Fleece 17, Manchester Sound Control 18, O2 Academy2 Newcastle 19, Glasgow Stereo 20, Leeds Brudenell Social Club 21, O2 Academy2 Birmingham 22, London O2 Academy Islington. Support: Angel Du$t.

TRIVIUM
Dublin Academy February 11, 2017, Belfast Limelight 12, O2 Institute Birmingham 14, Manchester Academy 15, Glasgow Barrowland 16, London Camden Roundhouse 17, Nottingham Rock City 18.

UNDERØATH
O2 Ritz Manchester May 1, 2017, Dublin Academy 2, Nottingham Rock City 3, O2 ABC Glasgow 4, O2 Academy Newcastle 5, O2 Institute Birmingham 6, Leeds Beckett University 8, London O2 Forum Kentish Town 9, Norwich Nick Rayns LCR UEA 10, O2 Academy Bristol 11.

WHILE SHE SLEEPS
York Fibbers April 20, 2017, London Tufnell Park Dome 22 – 23, Brighton Concorde II 25, Southampton Talking Heads 26, O2 Academy2 Oxford 27, Bristol Fleece 28, Manchester Academy II 29, Dublin Academy May 1, Belfast Oh Yeah Centre 2, Liverpool Arts Club 3, Stoke Sugarmill 5, Norwich Waterfront 6, Newcastle Riverside 8, Glasgow Garage 9, Nottingham Rescue Rooms 10, Birmingham Asylum 12, Leeds Stylus 13.

WITH CONFIDENCE
London Underworld Camden February 24, 2017, Southampton Joiners 25, Bristol Exchange 26, Leeds Key Club 28, Manchester Sound Control March 1, Glasgow King Tut's 2, Newcastle Think Tank? 3, Nottingham Basement 4, Birmingham Asylum 5, Norwich Epic Studious 6. Supports: Broadside, Safe To Say, Milestones.

THE WONDER YEARS
Leeds Uni Stylus January 31, 2017, London Camden KOKO February 1, O2 Institute Birmingham 3, Glasgow QMU 4, O2 Ritz Manchester 5. Support: PUP.

YOU ME AT SIX
O2 Academy Newcastle April 3, 2017, Plymouth Pavilions 5, Blackburn King George's Hall 6, Doncaster Dome 7, O2 Academy Birmingham 10, Bournemouth Solent Hall 11, Glasgow SECC 13, Cardiff Motorpoint Arena 14, London Alexandra Palace 15.

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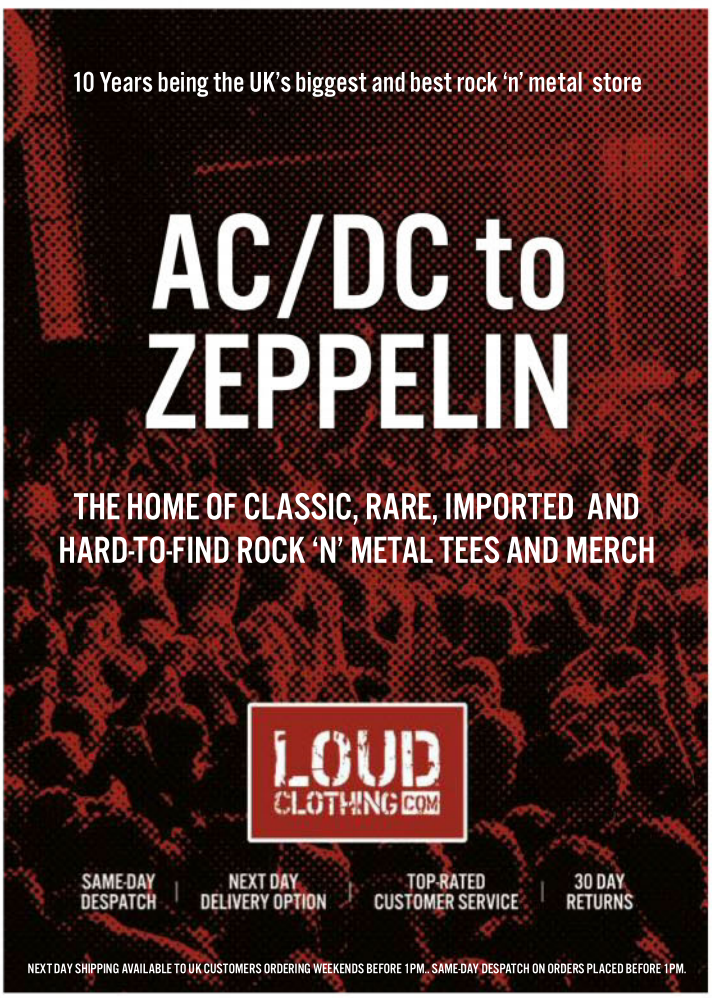
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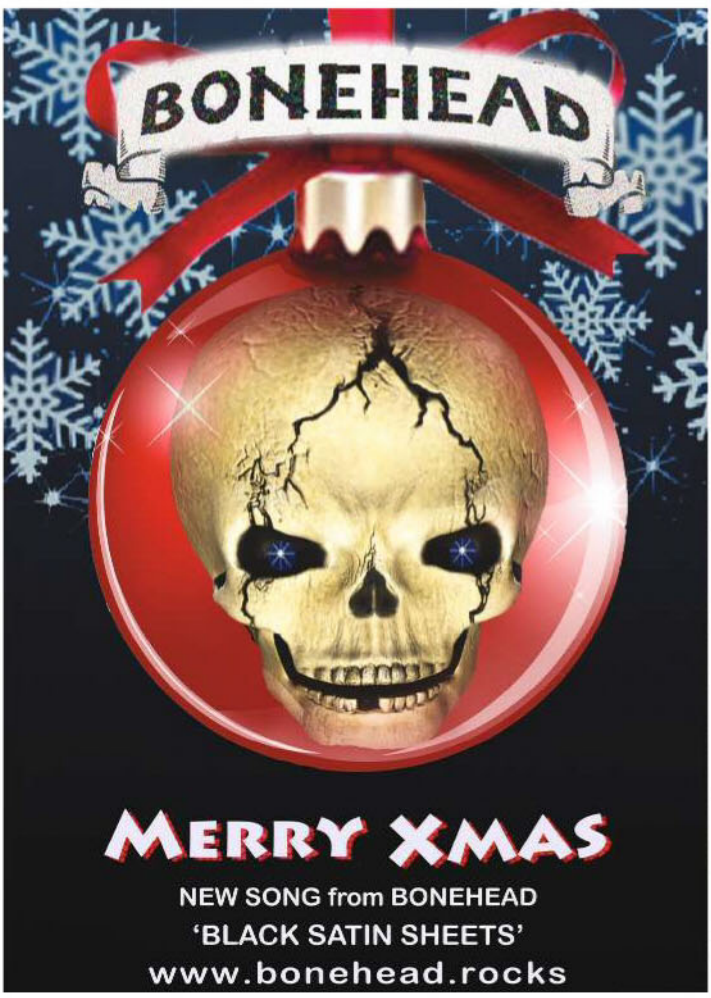
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YOU ME AT SIX
THE COMEBACK INTERVIEW

PHOTO: ANDY FORD

EDITORIAL
WHAT IS YOUR KERRISTMAS WISH?

EDITOR: James McMahon *(World peace. And that a billionaire science genius hasn't watched Jurassic World and been 'put off')*
DEPUTY EDITOR: George Garner *(Greater protection for great white sharks. Oh, and a new Pearl Jam album!)*
ART EDITOR: Steve Beech *(For the heating to be turned down on Kerristmas day)*
FEATURES EDITOR: Sam Coare *(GN'R Download secret set)*
ASSOCIATE EDITOR (REVIEWS): Nick Ruskell *(To wake up in 1999)*
DEPUTY ART EDITOR: Matt Dykzeul *(Kill Your Idols Euro Tour 2017)*
NEW MUSIC EDITOR/EDITORIAL ASSISTANT/SUB: Emily Carter *(Unlimited falafel. And flights to Australia to see my dad and stepmum)*
DESIGNER: Sophie Bland *(A new Imagine Dragons album)*
LISTINGS EDITOR: James Hingle *(For Dave Grohl to turn up at my house and watch X-Files with me)*
CONTRIBUTING ED: Katie Parsons *(A very happy, healthy year for all my family and friends)*

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SPECIAL THANKS TO: Jennyfer J. Walker *(My Kerristmas wish is for unlimited Kerristmas wishes)*

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BAUER

recycle

All views and opinions expressed by our interviewees are those of the artist or band and not necessarily Kerrang!'s.

THE KING'S SPEECH

IT WOULDN'T BE KERRISTMAS WITHOUT A FEW WORDS FROM A ROYAL. SO, ALL RISE FOR **LARS ULRICH** – **METALLICA** DRUMMER AND WOULD-BE KING OF DENMARK!

DEAR KERRANG! READERS,

"This year, as every year, has been crazy-busy for Metallica. The craziest thing for me, the real mindfuck of it all, is that even after 35 years we seem to be busier than ever! But one of the shifts we've experienced in the band – a real shift, like when the [tectonic] plates shift – is that we now fit Metallica around our family situations, rather than fit our family around the band.

"We all have very similar family structures to each other in Metallica, but Christmas in the Ulrich household is a Danish Christmas. That means we celebrate Christmas on the evening of the 24th. We have a big, fuck-off tree, which gets bigger every year – it's kinda crazy! Every year we sit there and say, 'We should get a smaller one…' and then they always end up getting bigger, for some reason.

"My dad lives very close to us in San Francisco with his wife, so they come and get involved, as well. I've brought my kids up the Danish way. They get to celebrate American Christmas with their mom, but with me it's Danish Christmas, so they get the best of both worlds!

"To eat, it's either duck or goose, and all kinds of potatoes and greens. Then we have a Danish rice pudding, and in that rice pudding are chopped-up almonds. You put a full almond in there, too – that's a big tradition from when I was a kid. Whoever gets the portion with the whole almond in it gets the Almond Gift, which now is, like, a $10 iTunes gift card or whatever. Then we open presents, and the tradition is that you do it as a big, communal thing. I give someone a present, and we'll all sit around watching them open it, then we talk about the present, then that person goes and gets a present and gives it to someone else, and we watch them unwrap *that*… It takes something like three fucking days to open all these fucking presents, 'cause it's a communal sharing thing! That's the thing in Denmark – Christmas is a thing we all do together, all of us equal.

"I HAVE A DANISH CHRISTMAS WITH A F**K-OFF TREE"
LARS ULRICH

"This year has been crazy, and 2017 will be, too! There's a huge amount of stuff that goes into the Metallica 'pot' now – new music, touring, festivals, reissues, our own label… We've got some really cool things that I'm really excited for in 2017, and I hope to see you all then!"

Lars
LARS ULRICH

KERRISTMAS ELF: SAM COARE **PHOTO:** FILM MAGIC

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